

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Public and Indian Housing

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Small PHA Plan Update  
Annual Plan for Fiscal Year: 2001

**NOTE: THIS PHA PLANS TEMPLATE (HUD 50075) IS TO BE COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
INSTRUCTIONS LOCATED IN APPLICABLE PIH NOTICES**

## PHA Plan Agency Identification

**PHA Name:** Avon Park Housing Authority

**PHA Number:** FL1201

**PHA Fiscal Year Beginning:** 01/2001

### PHA Plan Contact Information:

Name: Alice C. Oldham

Phone: 863-452-4432

TDD: 863-452-4432

Email (if available): a 1327@strato.net

### Public Access to Information

**Information regarding any activities outlined in this plan can be obtained by contacting: (select all that apply)**

- ☒ Main administrative office of the PHA
- ☐ PHA development management offices

### Display Locations For PHA Plans and Supporting Documents

The PHA Plans (including attachments) are available for public inspection at: (select all that apply)

- ☒ Main administrative office of the PHA
- ☐ PHA development management offices
- ☒ Main administrative office of the local, county or State government
- ☐ Public library
- ☐ PHA website
- ☐ Other (list below)

PHA Plan Supporting Documents are available for inspection at: (select all that apply)

- ☒ Main business office of the PHA
- ☐ PHA development management offices
- ☐ Other (list below)

### PHA Programs Administered:

- ☒ Public Housing and Section 8
- ☐ Section 8 Only
- ☐ Public Housing Only

## Annual PHA Plan Fiscal Year 2001

[24 CFR Part 903.7]

### **i. Table of Contents**

Provide a table of contents for the Plan, including attachments, and a list of supporting documents available for public inspection. For Attachments, indicate which attachments are provided by selecting all that apply. Provide the attachment's name (A, B, etc.) in the space to the left of the name of the attachment. If the attachment is provided as a **SEPARATE** file submission from the PHA Plans file, provide the file name in parentheses in the space to the right of the title.

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#### **Attachments**

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- ☒ Attachment B: Capital Fund Program Annual Statement pg. 9
- ☒ Attachment C: Resident Membership on PHA Board or Governing Body pg. 16
- ☒ Attachment D: Membership of Resident Advisory Board or Boards pg. 17
- ☒ Attachment E: Comments of Resident Advisory Board or Boards & Explanation of PHA Response (must be attached if not included in PHA Plan text)
- ☒ Other (List below, providing each attachment name)
- Attachment F: Progress in Meeting the 5-Year Plan Mission and Goals

### **1. Summary of Policy or Program Changes for the Upcoming Year**

In this section, briefly describe changes in policies or programs discussed in last year's PHA Plan that are not covered in other sections of this Update.

There are no substantial changes from the last year's plan. The two new sections of the ACOP are contained elsewhere in the Plan, the Community Services Policy and the Pet Policy for the family development.

### **2. Capital Improvement Needs**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (g)]

Exemptions: Section 8 only PHAs are not required to complete this component.

A. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Is the PHA eligible to participate in the CFP in the fiscal year covered by this PHA Plan?

B. What is the amount of the PHA's estimated or actual (if known) Capital Fund Program grant for the upcoming year?  
\$ 291,471, estimated 10% increase from 2000 grant.

C. ☒ Yes ☐ No Does the PHA plan to participate in the Capital Fund Program in the upcoming year? If yes, complete the rest of Component 7. If no, skip to next component.

D. Capital Fund Program Grant Submissions

**(1) Capital Fund Program 5-Year Action Plan**

Not required for Small PHA Annual Plan.

**(2) Capital Fund Program Annual Statement**

The Capital Fund Program Annual Statement is provided as Attachment B.

### **3. Demolition and Disposition**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (h)]

Applicability: Section 8 only PHAs are not required to complete this section.

1. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Does the PHA plan to conduct any demolition or disposition activities (pursuant to section 18 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437p)) in the plan Fiscal Year? (If "No", skip to next component ; if "yes", complete one activity description for each development.)

2. Activity Description

<b>Demolition/Disposition Activity Description (Not including Activities Associated with HOPE VI or Conversion Activities)</b>
1a. Development name: 1b. Development (project) number:
2. Activity type: Demolition <input type="checkbox"/> Disposition <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Application status (select one) Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Submitted, pending approval <input type="checkbox"/> Planned application <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Date application approved, submitted, or planned for submission: <u>(DD/MM/YY)</u>
5. Number of units affected: 6. Coverage of action (select one) <input type="checkbox"/> Part of the development <input type="checkbox"/> Total development

## 7. Relocation resources (select all that apply)

- ☐ Section 8 for units
- ☐ Public housing for units
- ☐ Preference for admission to other public housing or section 8
- ☐ Other housing for units (describe below)

## 8. Timeline for activity:

- a. Actual or projected start date of activity:
- b. Actual or projected start date of relocation activities:
- c. Projected end date of activity:

**4. Voucher Homeownership Program**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (k)]

- A. ☐ Yes ☒ No: Does the PHA plan to administer a Section 8 Homeownership program pursuant to Section 8(y) of the U.S.H.A. of 1937, as implemented by 24 CFR part 982 ? (If “No”, skip to next component; if “yes”, describe each program using the table below (copy and complete questions for each program identified.)

**B. Capacity of the PHA to Administer a Section 8 Homeownership Program**

The PHA has demonstrated its capacity to administer the program by (select all that apply):

- ☐ Establishing a minimum homeowner downpayment requirement of at least 3 percent and requiring that at least 1 percent of the downpayment comes from the family’s resources
- ☐ Requiring that financing for purchase of a home under its section 8 homeownership will be provided, insured or guaranteed by the state or Federal government; comply with secondary mortgage market underwriting requirements; or comply with generally accepted private sector underwriting standards
- ☐ Demonstrating that it has or will acquire other relevant experience (list PHA experience, or any other organization to be involved and its experience, below):

**5. Safety and Crime Prevention: PHDEP Plan**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 (m)]

Exemptions Section 8 Only PHAs may skip to the next component PHAs eligible for PHDEP funds must provide a PHDEP Plan meeting specified requirements prior to receipt of PHDEP funds.

- A. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Is the PHA eligible to participate in the PHDEP in the fiscal year covered by this PHA Plan?
- B. What is the amount of the PHA’s estimated or actual (if known) PHDEP grant for the upcoming year? \$  
\_\_\_\_\_
- C. ☐ Yes ☒ No Does the PHA plan to participate in the PHDEP in the upcoming year? If yes, answer question
- D. If no, skip to next component.

D. ☐ Yes ☒ No: The PHDEP Plan is attached at Attachment \_\_\_\_

## **6. Other Information**

[24 CFR Part 903.7 9 (r)]

### **A. Resident Advisory Board (RAB) Recommendations and PHA Response**

1. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Did the PHA receive any comments on the PHA Plan from the Resident Advisory Board/s?
2. If yes, the comments are Attached at Attachment (File name) E.
3. In what manner did the PHA address those comments? (select all that apply)
  - ☒ The PHA changed portions of the PHA Plan in response to comments  
A list of these changes is included  
☐ Yes ☐ No: below or  
☐ Yes ☐ No: at the end of the RAB Comments in Attachment E.
  - ☐ Considered comments, but determined that no changes to the PHA Plan were necessary. An explanation of the PHA's consideration is included at the end of the RAB Comments in Attachment \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Other: (list below)

### **B. Statement of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan**

Not required in the Small PHA Annual Plan, per PIH 2000-43 (HA) III. A.4.

1. Consolidated Plan jurisdiction: (provide name here)
2. The PHA has taken the following steps to ensure consistency of this PHA Plan with the Consolidated Plan for the jurisdiction: (select all that apply)
  - ☐ The PHA has based its statement of needs of families in the jurisdiction on the needs expressed in the Consolidated Plan/s.
  - ☐ The PHA has participated in any consultation process organized and offered by the Consolidated Plan agency in the development of the Consolidated Plan.
  - ☐ The PHA has consulted with the Consolidated Plan agency during the development of this PHA Plan.
  - ☐ Activities to be undertaken by the PHA in the coming year are consistent with specific initiatives contained in the Consolidated Plan. (list such initiatives below)
  - ☐ Other: (list below)
3. PHA Requests for support from the Consolidated Plan Agency

☐ Yes ☐ No: Does the PHA request financial or other support from the State or local government agency in order to meet the needs of its public housing residents or inventory? If yes, please list the 5 most important requests below:

4. The Consolidated Plan of the jurisdiction supports the PHA Plan with the following actions and commitments: (describe below)

### C. Criteria for Substantial Deviation and Significant Amendments

#### 1. Amendment and Deviation Definitions

24 CFR Part 903.7(r)

PHAs are required to define and adopt their own standards of substantial deviation from the 5-year Plan and Significant Amendment to the Annual Plan. The definition of significant amendment is important because it defines when the PHA will subject a change to the policies or activities described in the Annual Plan to full public hearing and HUD review before implementation.

#### A. Substantial Deviation from the 5-year Plan:

There are no substantial deviations from the 5-year Plan.

#### B. Significant Amendment or Modification to the Annual Plan:

There are some changes in the Capital Improvements Plan from the original 5-Year Plan, as a result of the work completed under a prior CIAP and review of the original items.

### Attachment A

#### Supporting Documents Available for Review

PHAs are to indicate which documents are available for public review by placing a mark in the "Applicable & On Display" column in the appropriate rows. All listed documents must be on display if applicable to the program activities conducted by the PHA.

List of Supporting Documents Available for Review		
Applicable & On Display	Supporting Document	Related Plan Component
P	PHA Plan Certifications of Compliance with the PHA Plans and Related Regulations	5 Year and Annual Plans
	State/Local Government Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan (not required for this update)	5 Year and Annual Plans
	Fair Housing Documentation Supporting Fair Housing Certifications: Records reflecting that the PHA has examined its programs or proposed programs, identified any impediments to fair housing choice in those programs, addressed or is addressing those impediments in a reasonable fashion in view of the resources available, and worked or is working with local jurisdictions to implement any of the jurisdictions' initiatives to affirmatively further fair housing that require the PHA's involvement.	5 Year and Annual Plans

<b>List of Supporting Documents Available for Review</b>		
<b>Applicable &amp; On Display</b>	<b>Supporting Document</b>	<b>Related Plan Component</b>
P	Housing Needs Statement of the Consolidated Plan for the jurisdiction/s in which the PHA is located and any additional backup data to support statement of housing needs in the jurisdiction	Annual Plan: Housing Needs
P	Most recent board-approved operating budget for the public housing program	Annual Plan: Financial Resources
P	Public Housing Admissions and (Continued) Occupancy Policy (A&O/ACOP), which includes the Tenant Selection and Assignment Plan [TSAP]	Annual Plan: Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions Policies
	Any policy governing occupancy of Police Officers in Public Housing <input type="checkbox"/> check here if included in the public housing A&O Policy	Annual Plan: Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions Policies
P	Section 8 Administrative Plan	Annual Plan: Eligibility, Selection, and Admissions Policies
P	Public housing rent determination policies, including the method for setting public housing flat rents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy	Annual Plan: Rent Determination
P	Schedule of flat rents offered at each public housing development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy	Annual Plan: Rent Determination
P	Section 8 rent determination (payment standard) policies <input type="checkbox"/> check here if included in Section 8 Administrative Plan	Annual Plan: Rent Determination
	Public housing management and maintenance policy documents, including policies for the prevention or eradication of pest infestation (including cockroach infestation)	Annual Plan: Operations and Maintenance
	Results of latest binding Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) Assessment	Annual Plan: Management and Operations
P	Follow-up Plan to Results of the PHAS Resident Satisfaction Survey (if necessary)	Annual Plan: Operations and Maintenance and Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	Results of latest Section 8 Management Assessment System (SEMAP)	Annual Plan: Management and Operations
	Any required policies governing any Section 8 special housing types <input type="checkbox"/> check here if included in Section 8 Administrative Plan	Annual Plan: Operations and Maintenance



<b>List of Supporting Documents Available for Review</b>		
<b>Applicable &amp; On Display</b>	<b>Supporting Document</b>	<b>Related Plan Component</b>
P	Public housing grievance procedures <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy	Annual Plan: Grievance Procedures
	Section 8 informal review and hearing procedures <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> check here if included in Section 8 Administrative Plan	Annual Plan: Grievance Procedures
P	The HUD-approved Capital Fund/Comprehensive Grant Program Annual Statement (HUD 52837) for any active grant year	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
P	Most recent CIAP Budget/Progress Report (HUD 52825) for any active CIAP grants	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
	Approved HOPE VI applications or, if more recent, approved or submitted HOPE VI Revitalization Plans, or any other approved proposal for development of public housing	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
	Self-evaluation, Needs Assessment and Transition Plan required by regulations implementing §504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. See, PIH 99-52 (HA).	Annual Plan: Capital Needs
	Approved or submitted applications for demolition and/or disposition of public housing	Annual Plan: Demolition and Disposition
	Approved or submitted applications for designation of public housing (Designated Housing Plans)	Annual Plan: Designation of Public Housing
	Approved or submitted assessments of reasonable revitalization of public housing and approved or submitted conversion plans prepared pursuant to section 202 of the 1996 HUD Appropriations Act, Section 22 of the US Housing Act of 1937, or Section 33 of the US Housing Act of 1937	Annual Plan: Conversion of Public Housing
	Approved or submitted public housing homeownership programs/plans	Annual Plan: Homeownership
	Policies governing any Section 8 Homeownership program (section _____ of the Section 8 Administrative Plan)	Annual Plan: Homeownership
	Cooperation agreement between the PHA and the TANF agency and between the PHA and local employment and training service agencies	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	FSS Action Plan/s for public housing and/or Section 8	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	Section 3 documentation required by 24 CFR Part 135, Subpart E	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	Most recent self-sufficiency (ED/SS, TOP or ROSS or other resident services grant) grant program reports	Annual Plan: Community Service & Self-Sufficiency
	The most recent Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (PHEDEP) semi-annual performance report	Annual Plan: Safety and Crime Prevention

<b>List of Supporting Documents Available for Review</b>		
<b>Applicable &amp; On Display</b>	<b>Supporting Document</b>	<b>Related Plan Component</b>
	PHDEP-related documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Baseline law enforcement services for public housing developments assisted under the PHDEP plan;</li> <li>· Consortium agreement/s between the PHAs participating in the consortium and a copy of the payment agreement between the consortium and HUD (applicable only to PHAs participating in a consortium as specified under 24 CFR 761.15);</li> <li>· Partnership agreements (indicating specific leveraged support) with agencies/organizations providing funding, services or other in-kind resources for PHDEP-funded activities;</li> <li>· Coordination with other law enforcement efforts;</li> <li>· Written agreement(s) with local law enforcement agencies (receiving any PHDEP funds); and</li> <li>· All crime statistics and other relevant data (including Part I and specified Part II crimes) that establish need for the public housing sites assisted under the PHDEP Plan.</li> </ul>	Annual Plan: Safety and Crime Prevention
P	Policy on Ownership of Pets in Public Housing Family Developments (as required by regulation at 24 CFR Part 960, Subpart G) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> check here if included in the public housing A & O Policy	Pet Policy
	The results of the most recent fiscal year audit of the PHA conducted under section 5(h)(2) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (42 U. S.C. 1437c(h)), the results of that audit and the PHA's response to any findings	Annual Plan: Annual Audit
	Troubled PHAs: MOA/Recovery Plan	Troubled PHAs
	Other supporting documents (optional) (list individually; use as many lines as necessary)	(specify as needed)

<b>Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report</b> <b>Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF) Part 1: Summary</b>					
<b>PHA Name:</b> Avon Park Housing Authority		<b>Grant Type and Number</b> Capital Fund Program: FL14P0125010		<b>Federal FY of Grant:</b> 2001	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Original Annual Statement</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reserve for Disasters/ Emergencies</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Revised Annual Statement (revision no:     )</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Performance and Evaluation Report for Period Ending:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Final Performance and Evaluation Report</b>					
Line No.	Summary by Development Account	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost	
		Original	Revised	Obligated	Expended
1	Total non-CFP Funds				
2	1406 Operations	29,147			
3	1408 Management Improvements	1,500			
4	1410 Administration	35,000			
5	1411 Audit	10,000			
6	1415 liquidated Damages				
7	1430 Fees and Costs	18,000			
8	1440 Site Acquisition				
9	1450 Site Improvement	32,000			
10	1460 Dwelling Structures	162,000			
11	1465.1 Dwelling Equipment—Nonexpendable	2,000			
12	1470 Nondwelling Structures				
13	1475 Nondwelling Equipment	1,500			
14	1485 Demolition				
15	1490 Replacement Reserve				
16	1492 Moving to Work Demonstration				
17	1495.1 Relocation Costs				
18	1498 Mod Used for Development				
19	1502 Contingency				
20	Amount of Annual Grant: (sum of lines 2-19)	291,147			
21	Amount of line 20 Related to LBP Activities	0			
22	Amount of line 20 Related to Section 504 Compliance	0			

<b>Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report</b> <b>Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF) Part 1: Summary</b>					
<b>PHA Name:</b> Avon Park Housing Authority		<b>Grant Type and Number</b> Capital Fund Program: FL14P0125010			<b>Federal FY of Grant:</b> 2001
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Original Annual Statement</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reserve for Disasters/ Emergencies</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Revised Annual Statement (revision no:     )</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Performance and Evaluation Report for Period Ending:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Final Performance and Evaluation Report</b>					
<b>Line No.</b>	<b>Summary by Development Account</b>	<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>		<b>Total Actual Cost</b>	
23	Amount of line 20 Related to Security	0			
24	Amount of line 20 Related to Energy Conservation Measures	0			

<b>Annual Statement/Performance and Evaluation Report</b> <b>Capital Fund Program and Capital Fund Program Replacement Housing Factor (CFP/CFPRHF)</b> <b>Part II: Supporting Pages</b>								
PHA Name: Avon Park Housing Authority			<b>Grant Type and Number</b> Capital Fund Program #: FL14P0125010			Federal FY of Grant: 2001		
Development Number Name/HA-Wide Activities	General Description of Major Work Categories	Dev. Acct No.	Quantity	Total Estimated Cost		Total Actual Cost		Status of Proposed Work
				Original	Revised	Funds Obligated	Funds Expended	
FL012	Operations	1406		29,147				
	Special Programs Assistant Salary + benefits	1408		35,000				
	Annual Plan	1410		1,500				
	Audit fee, public housing	1411		10,000				
	A&E, construction inspections	1430		18,000				
	Reconstruct wall and gate at TECO Gas pump station	1450		7,000				
	Landscaping to include sod, shrubs & erosion control – Delaney Heights			25,000				
	LSP – Provide Central HVAC, phase I, upgrade electrical & light fixtures	1460		50,000				
	DH- Upgrade light fixtures			15,000				
	LSP- exterior paint			45,000				
	DH- exterior paint			12,000				
	LSP- interior paint, add wood base board & shoe mold			15,000				
	DH- interior paint + base, mold			25,000				
	Replacement appliances	1465.1		2,000				
		1470						









## Capital Fund Program 5-Year Action Plan

Complete one table for each development in which work is planned in the next 5 PHA fiscal years. Complete a table for any PHA-wide physical or management improvements planned in the next 5 PHA fiscal year.

Copy this table as many times as necessary. Note: PHAs need not include information from Year One of the 5-Year cycle, because this information is included in the Capital Fund Program Annual Statement.

CFP 5-Year Action Plan		
<input type="checkbox"/> Original statement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revised statement		
Development Number	Development Name (or indicate PHA wide)	
F112001	Lakeside Park, DeLaney Heights and PHA wide	
Description of Needed Physical Improvements or Management Improvements	Estimated Cost	Planned Start (PHA Fiscal Year)
<b><u>Management Improvements:</u></b>	105,050	2002-2004
Salary + benefits for Special Programs Assistant 2002 – \$34,000. 2003 - \$35,000. 2004- \$36,050		
Operations Accounts – 10% of estimated budget	87,441	2002-2004
Audit, public housing (formerly paid by HUD under separate Operating Subsidy budget line item).	30,000	2002-2004
A&E, construction management, inspections	45,000	2002-2004
Technical Assistance, preparation of Annual Plan and HUD submissions	7,500	2002-2004
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$274,991	
<b><u>Lakeside Park</u></b>		
Upgrade Electrical system, light fixtures, provide central HVAC, in phases 2001 - \$50,000 2002-2004 - \$144,000 each year to complete project	431,900	2001-2004
700 ft. fencing to separate 100 block from adjoining woods, private property	19,600	2001
Site bollards to keep cars off of the yards	7,500	2004
Landscaping to include sod, shrubs, erosion control, phase I	19,750	2003
Provide Handicapped Access to the 2 playgrounds	10,000	2002
Concrete steps at rear porch stoops, expand stoops	23,700	2002
New interior solid core doors and hardware	51,350	2004
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$563,800	
<b><u>DeLaney Heights</u></b>		
New windows	40,000	
Exterior painting, phase I	50,000	2003
Additional parking, sidewalk redesign	15,000	2004
Modernize the Community Center, including furnishings	38,500	2002
Replacement Appliances	20,000	2003
<b>TOTAL</b>	163,500	2002-2004
<b>Total estimated cost over next 5 years</b>		

## Required Attachment C. Resident Member on the PHA Governing Board

1. ☒ Yes ☐ No: Does the PHA governing board include at least one member who is directly assisted by the PHA this year? (if no, skip to #2)
- A. Name of resident member(s) on the governing board: Raymond White
- B. How was the resident board member selected: (select one)?
- ☐ Elected
- ☒ Appointed
- C. The term of appointment is (include the date term expires): 3/27/03
2. A. If the PHA governing board does not have at least one member who is directly assisted by the PHA, why not?
- ☐ the PHA is located in a State that requires the members of a governing board to be salaried and serve on a full time basis
- ☐ the PHA has less than 300 public housing units, has provided reasonable notice to the resident advisory board of the opportunity to serve on the governing board, and has not been notified by any resident of their interest to participate in the Board.
- ☐ Other (explain):
- B. Date of next term expiration of a governing board member: 10/28/2000
- C. Name and title of appointing official(s) for governing board (indicate appointing official for the next position): Mayor Tom Macklin, with conformation by the City Council of the City of Avon Park, in accordance with Florida Statute 421.

## Required Attachment D: Membership of the Resident Advisory Board or Boards

List members of the Resident Advisory Board or Boards: (If the list would be unreasonably long, list organizations represented or otherwise provide a description sufficient to identify how members are chosen.).

Members	Representing
Raymond White	DeLaney Heights, Resident Commissioner
Dewey Tew	DeLaney Heights
Harry "Bud" Taylor	DeLaney Heights
Gwyn Johnston	DeLaney Heights
Linda Robinson	Lakeside Park
Evelyn Nieves	Lakeside Park, Hispanic residents
Betty Ellis	Lakeside Park
Claudy Antoine	Lakeside Park, Haitian residents
Dorothy Duveilhonne	Section 8 program residents

### **ATTACHMENT A: Supporting Documents Available for Review**

1. Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP)
2. Administrative Plan (Admin Plan)
3. CIAP and CFP Budgets and Quarterly Reports
4. Policies contained in the FY 2000 Annual Plan and 5 Year Plan
5. Audit for FFYE 12/31/99

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# **ADMISSIONS AND CONTINUED OCCUPANCY POLICY**

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This Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy defines the Avon Park Housing Authority's policies for the operation for the Public Housing Program, incorporating Federal, State and local law. If there is any conflict between this policy and laws or regulations, the laws and regulations will prevail.

## **1.0 FAIR HOUSING**

It is the policy of the Avon Park Housing Authority to fully comply with all Federal, State and local nondiscrimination laws; the Americans with Disabilities Act; and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations governing Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. The Avon Park Housing Authority shall affirmatively further fair housing in the administration of its public housing program.

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, national or ethnic origin, familial status, or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under the Avon Park Housing Authority's programs.

To further its commitment to full compliance with applicable Civil Rights laws, the Avon Park Housing Authority will provide Federal/State/local information to applicants/tenants of the Public Housing Program regarding discrimination and any recourse available to them if they believe they may be victims of discrimination. Such information will be made available with the application, and all applicable Fair Housing Information and Discrimination Complaint Forms will be made available at the Avon Park Housing Authority office. In addition, all written information and advertisements will contain the appropriate Equal Opportunity language and logo.

The Avon Park Housing Authority will assist any family that believes they have suffered illegal discrimination by providing them copies of the appropriate housing discrimination forms. The Avon Park Housing Authority will also assist them in completing the forms if requested, and will provide them with the address of the nearest HUD office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

## **2.0 REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION**

Sometimes people with disabilities may need a reasonable accommodation in order to take full advantage of the Avon Park Housing Authority housing programs and related services. When such accommodations are granted, they do not confer special treatment or advantage for the

person with a disability; rather, they make the program accessible to them in a way that would otherwise not be possible due to their disability. This policy clarifies how people can request accommodations and the guidelines the Avon Park Housing Authority will follow in determining whether it is reasonable to provide a requested accommodation. Because disabilities are not always apparent, the Avon Park Housing Authority will ensure that all applicants/tenants are aware of the opportunity to request reasonable accommodations.

## **2.1    *COMMUNICATION***

Anyone requesting an application will also receive a Request for Reasonable Accommodation form.

Notifications of reexamination, inspection, appointment, or eviction will include information about requesting a reasonable accommodation. Any notification requesting action by the tenant will include information about requesting a reasonable accommodation.

All decisions granting or denying requests for reasonable accommodations will be in writing.

## **2.2    *QUESTIONS TO ASK IN GRANTING THE ACCOMMODATION***

- A.    Is the requestor a person with disabilities? For this purpose the definition of person with disabilities is different than the definition used for admission. The Fair Housing definition used for this purpose is:

A person with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such impairment. (The disability may not be apparent to others, i.e., a heart condition).

If the disability is apparent or already documented, the answer to this question is yes. It is possible that the disability for which the accommodation is being requested is a disability other than the apparent disability. If the disability is not apparent or documented, the Avon Park Housing Authority will obtain verification that the person is a person with a disability.

- B.    Is the requested accommodation related to the disability? If it is apparent that the request is related to the apparent or documented disability, the answer to this question is yes. If it is not apparent, the Avon Park Housing Authority will obtain documentation that the requested accommodation is needed due to the disability. The Avon Park Housing Authority will not inquire as to the nature of the disability.

C. Is the requested accommodation reasonable? In order to be determined reasonable, the accommodation must meet two criteria:

7. 1. Would the accommodation constitute a fundamental alteration? The Avon Park Housing Authority's business is housing. If the request would alter the fundamental business that the Avon Park Housing Authority conducts, that would not be reasonable. For instance, the Avon Park Housing Authority would deny a request to have the Avon Park Housing Authority do grocery shopping for a person with disabilities.

8.

9. 2. Would the requested accommodation create an undue financial hardship or administrative burden? Frequently the requested accommodation costs little or nothing. If the cost would be an undue burden, the Avon Park Housing Authority may request a meeting with the individual to investigate and consider equally effective alternatives.

D. Generally the individual knows best what it is they need; however, the Avon Park Housing Authority retains the right to be shown how the requested accommodation enables the individual to access or use the Avon Park Housing Authority's programs or services.

If more than one accommodation is equally effective in providing access to the Avon Park Housing Authority's programs and services, the Avon Park Housing Authority retains the right to select the most efficient or economic choice.

7. The cost necessary to carry out approved requests, including requests for physical modifications, will be borne by the Avon Park Housing Authority if there is no one else willing to pay for the modifications. If another party pays for the modification, the Avon Park Housing Authority will seek to have the same entity pay for any restoration costs.

7. If the tenant requests as a reasonable accommodation that they be permitted to make physical modifications at their own expense, the Avon Park Housing Authority will generally approve such request if it does not violate codes or affect the structural integrity of the unit.

Any request for an accommodation that would enable a tenant to materially violate essential lease terms will not be approved, i.e. allowing nonpayment of rent, destruction of property, disturbing the peaceful enjoyment of others, etc.

### **3.0 SERVICES FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING APPLICANTS AND RESIDENTS**

The Avon Park Housing Authority will endeavor to have bilingual staff or access to people who speak languages other than English.

### **4.0 FAMILY OUTREACH**

The Avon Park Housing Authority will publicize the availability and nature of the Public Housing Program for extremely low-income, very low and low-income families in a newspaper of general circulation, minority media, and by other suitable means.

To reach people who cannot or do not read the newspapers, the Avon Park Housing Authority will distribute fact sheets to the broadcasting media and initiate personal contacts with members of the news media and community service personnel. The Avon Park Housing Authority will also try to utilize public service announcements.

The Avon Park Housing Authority will communicate the status of housing availability to other service providers in the community and inform them of housing eligibility factors and guidelines so they can make proper referrals for the Public Housing Program.

### **5.0 RIGHT TO PRIVACY**

All adult members of both applicant and tenant households are required to sign HUD Form 9886, Authorization for Release of Information and Privacy Act Notice. The Authorization for Release of Information and Privacy Act Notice states how family information will be released and includes the Federal Privacy Act Statement.

Any request for applicant or tenant information will not be released unless there is a signed release of information request from the applicant or tenant.

### **6.0 REQUIRED POSTINGS**

In each of its offices, the Avon Park Housing Authority will post, in a conspicuous place and at a height easily read by all persons including persons with mobility disabilities, the following information:

- A. Statement of Policies and Procedures governing Admission and Continued Occupancy

- B. Notice of the status of the waiting list (opened or closed)
- C. A listing of all the developments by name, address, number of units, units designed with special accommodations, address of all project offices, office hours, telephone numbers, TDD numbers, and Resident Facilities and operation hours
- D. Income Limits for Admission
- E. Excess Utility Charges
- F. Utility Allowance Schedule
- G. Current Schedule of Routine Maintenance Charges
- H. Dwelling Lease
- I. Grievance Procedure
- J. Fair Housing Poster
- K. Equal Opportunity in Employment Poster
- L. Any current Avon Park Housing Authority Notices

## **7.0 TAKING APPLICATIONS**

Families wishing to apply for the Public Housing Program will be required to complete an application for housing assistance. Applications will be accepted during regular business hours at:

**406 Tulane Drive, Avon Park, FL**

Applications are taken to compile a waiting list. Due to the demand for housing in the Avon Park Housing Authority jurisdiction, the Avon Park Housing Authority may take applications on an open enrollment basis, depending on the length of the waiting list.

Completed applications will be accepted for all applicants and the Avon Park Housing Authority will verify the information.

Applications may be made in person on MTTF from 8-12, 1-4:30 and W from 8-12. Applications will be mailed to interested families upon request.

The completed application will be dated and time stamped upon its return to the Avon Park Housing Authority.

Persons with disabilities who require a reasonable accommodation in completing an application may call the Avon Park Housing Authority to make special arrangements. A Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) is available for the deaf. The TDD telephone number is (863) 452-4432.

The application process will involve two phases. The first phase is the initial application for housing assistance or the pre-application. The pre-application requires the family to provide limited basic information establishing any preferences to which they may be entitled. This first phase results in the family's placement on the waiting list.

Upon receipt of the family's pre-application, the Avon Park Housing Authority will make a preliminary determination of eligibility. The Avon Park Housing Authority will notify the family in writing of the date and time of placement on the waiting list, and the approximate wait before housing may be offered. If the Avon Park Housing Authority determines the family to be ineligible, the notice will state the reasons therefore and will offer the family the opportunity of an informal review of the determination.

The applicant may at any time report changes in their applicant status including changes in family composition, income, or preference factors. The Avon Park Housing Authority will annotate the applicant's file and will update their place on the waiting list. Confirmation of the changes will be confirmed with the family in writing.

The second phase is the final determination of eligibility, referred to as the full application. The full application takes place when the family nears the top of the waiting list. The Avon Park Housing Authority will ensure that verification of all preferences, eligibility, suitability and selection factors are current in order to determine the family's final eligibility for admission into the Public Housing Program.

## **8.0 ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION**

### **8.1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.
2. There are five eligibility requirements for admission to public housing: qualifies as a family, has an income within the income limits, meets citizenship/eligible immigrant criteria,

provides documentation of Social Security numbers, and signs consent authorization documents. In addition to the eligibility criteria, families must also meet the Avon Park Housing Authority screening criteria in order to be admitted to public housing.

3.

## 8.2 **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

7.

### 8. A. Family Status

1. A **family with or without children** Such a family is defined as a group of people related by blood, marriage, adoption or affinity that live together in a stable family relationship.

1. a. Children temporarily absent from the home due to placement in foster care are considered family members.

2.

- b. Unborn children and children in the process of being adopted are considered family members for the purpose of determining bedroom size but are not considered family members for determining income limit.

2. An **elderly family**, which is:

- a. A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 62 years of age;
- b. Two or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living together; or
- c. One or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living with one or more live-in aides.

3. A **near-elderly family**, which is:

- a. A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62;
- b. Two or more persons, who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62, living together; or
- c. One or more persons, who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62, living with one or more live-in aides.

4. A **disabled family**, which is:
  - a. A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person with disabilities;
  - b. Two or more persons with disabilities living together; or
  - c. One or more persons with disabilities living with one or more live-in aides.
  - d. For purposes of qualifying for low-income housing, does not include a person whose disability is based solely on any drug or alcohol dependence.
5. A **displaced family**, which is a family in which each member, or whose sole member, has been displaced by governmental action, or whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to Federal disaster relief laws.
6. A **remaining member of a tenant family**.
7. A **single person** who is not an elderly or displaced person, a person with disabilities, or the remaining member of a tenant family.

7. B. Income Eligibility

1. To be eligible for admission to developments or scattered-site units, the family's annual income must be within the low-income limit set by HUD. This means the family income cannot exceed 80 percent of the median income for the area.
2. Income limits apply only at admission and are not applicable for continued occupancy.
3. A family may not be admitted to the public housing program from another assisted housing program (e.g., tenant-based Section 8) or from a public housing program operated by another housing authority without meeting the income requirements of the Avon Park Housing Authority.
4. If the Avon Park Housing Authority acquires a property for federal public housing purposes, the families living there must have incomes within the low-income limit in order to be eligible to remain as public housing tenants.





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- #### 7. D. Social Security Number Documentation

## 7. E. Signing Consent Forms

In order to be eligible, each

- 11

- b. A provision authorizing HUD or the Avon Park Housing Authority to verify with previous or current employers income information pertinent to the family's eligibility for or level of assistance;
- c. A provision authorizing HUD to request income information from the IRS and the SSA for the sole purpose of verifying income information pertinent to the family's eligibility or level of benefits; and
- d. A statement that the authorization to release the information requested by the consent form expires 15 months after the date the consent form is signed.

### **8.3 SUITABILITY**

7.

- 8. A. Applicant families will be evaluated to determine whether, based on their recent behavior, such behavior could reasonably be expected to result in noncompliance with the public housing lease. The Avon Park Housing Authority will look at past conduct as an indicator of future conduct. Emphasis will be placed on whether a family's admission could reasonably be expected to have a detrimental effect on the development environment, other tenants, Avon Park Housing Authority employees, or other people residing in the immediate vicinity of the property. Otherwise eligible families will be denied admission if they fail to meet the suitability criteria.

- 7. B. The Avon Park Housing Authority will consider objective and reasonable aspects of the family's background, including the following:

- 1. History of meeting financial obligations, especially rent;
- 2. Ability to maintain (or with assistance would have the ability to maintain) their housing in a decent and safe condition based on living or housekeeping habits and whether such habits could adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of other tenants;
- 3. History of criminal activity by any household member involving crimes of physical violence against persons or property and any other criminal activity including drug-related criminal activity that would adversely affect the health, safety, or well being of other tenants or staff or cause damage to the property;
- 3. History of disturbing neighbors or destruction of property;
- 4. Having committed fraud in connection with any Federal housing assistance

program, including the intentional misrepresentation of information related to their housing application or benefits derived there from; and

5. History of abusing alcohol in a way that may interfere with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment by others.
- C. The Avon Park Housing Authority will ask applicants to provide information demonstrating their ability to comply with the essential elements of the lease. The Avon Park Housing Authority will verify the information provided. Such verification may include but may not be limited to the following:
1. A credit check of the head, spouse and co-head;
  2. A rental history check of all adult family members;
  3. A criminal background check on all adult household members, including live-in aides. This check will be made through State or local law enforcement or court records in those cases where the household member has lived in the local jurisdiction for the last three years. Where the individual has lived outside the local area, the Avon Park Housing Authority may contact law enforcement agencies where the individual had lived or request a check through the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC);
  4. A home visit. The home visit provides the opportunity for the family to demonstrate their ability to maintain their home in a safe and sanitary manner. This inspection considers cleanliness and care of rooms, appliances, and appurtenances. The inspection may also consider any evidence of criminal activity; and
  5. A check of the State's lifetime sex offender registration program for each adult household member, including live-in aides. No individual registered with this program will be admitted to public housing.

#### **8.4 GROUND'S FOR DENIAL**

The Avon Park Housing Authority is not required or obligated to assist applicants who:

- A. Do not meet any one or more of the eligibility criteria;
- B. Do not supply information or documentation required by the application process;

- C. Have failed to respond to a written request for information or a request to declare their continued interest in the program;
- D. Have a history of not meeting financial obligations, especially rent;
- E. Do not have the ability to maintain (with assistance) their housing in a decent and safe condition where such habits could adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of other tenants;
- F. Have a history of criminal activity by any household member involving crimes of physical violence against persons or property and any other criminal activity including drug-related criminal activity that would adversely affect the health, safety, or well being of other tenants or staff or cause damage to the property;
- G. Have a history of disturbing neighbors or destruction of property;
- H. Currently owes rent or other amounts to any housing authority in connection with their public housing or Section 8 programs;
- I. Have committed fraud, bribery or any other corruption in connection with any Federal housing assistance program, including the intentional misrepresentation of information related to their housing application or benefits derived there from;
- J. Were evicted from assisted housing within three years of the projected date of admission because of drug-related criminal activity involving the personal use or possession for personal use;
- K. Were evicted from assisted housing within five years of the projected date of admission because of drug-related criminal activity involving the illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, or possession with the intent to manufacture, sell, distribute a controlled substance as defined in Section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 802;
- L. Are illegally using a controlled substance or are abusing alcohol in a way that may interfere with the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents. The Avon Park Housing Authority may waive this requirement if:
  - 1. The person demonstrates to the Avon Park Housing Authority's satisfaction that the person is no longer engaging in drug-related criminal activity or abuse of alcohol;
  - 2. Has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program;

- 3. Has otherwise been rehabilitated successfully; or
- 4. Is participating in a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program.
- M. Have engaged in or threatened abusive or violent behavior towards any Avon Park Housing Authority staff member or resident;
- N. Have a household member who has ever been evicted from public housing;
- O. Have a family household member who has been terminated under the certificate or voucher program;
- P. **Denied for Life:** If any family member has been convicted of manufacturing or producing methamphetamine (speed) in a public housing development or in a Section 8 assisted property;
- Q. **Denied for Life:** Has a lifetime registration under a State sex offender registration program.

## 8.5 *INFORMAL REVIEW*

- A. If the Avon Park Housing Authority determines that an applicant does not meet the criteria for receiving public housing assistance, the Avon Park Housing Authority will promptly provide the applicant with written notice of the determination. The notice must contain a brief statement of the reason(s) for the decision and state that the applicant may request an informal review of the decision within 10 business days of the denial. The Avon Park Housing Authority will describe how to obtain the informal review.

The informal review may be conducted by any person designated by the Avon Park Housing Authority, other than a person who made or approved the decision under review or subordinate of this person. The applicant must be given the opportunity to present written or oral objections to the Avon Park Housing Authority's decision. The Avon Park Housing Authority must notify the applicant of the final decision within 14 calendar days after the informal review, including a brief statement of the reasons for the final decision.

- B. The participant family may request that the Avon Park Housing Authority provide for an Informal Hearing after the family has notification of an INS decision on their citizenship status on appeal, or in lieu of request of appeal to the INS. This request must be made

by the participant family within 30 days of receipt of the Notice of Denial or Termination of Assistance, or within 30 days of receipt of the INS appeal decision.

For the participant families, the Informal Hearing Process above will be utilized with the exception that the participant family will have up to 30 days of receipt of the Notice of Denial or Termination of Assistance, or of the INS appeal decision.

## **9.0 MANAGING THE WAITING LIST**

### **9.1 *OPENING AND CLOSING THE WAITING LIST***

Opening of the waiting list will be announced with a public notice stating that applications for public housing will again be accepted. The public notice will state where, when, and how to apply. The notice will be published in a local newspaper of general circulation and also by any available minority media. The public notice will state any limitations to who may apply.

The notice will state that applicants already on waiting lists for other housing programs must apply separately for this program and such applicants will not lose their place on other waiting lists when they apply for public housing. The notice will include the Fair Housing logo and slogan and will be in compliance with Fair Housing requirements.

Closing of the waiting list will also be announced with a public notice. The public notice will state the date the waiting list will be closed and for what bedroom sizes. The public notice will be published in a local newspaper of general circulation and also by any available minority media.

### **9.2 *ORGANIZATION OF THE WAITING LIST***

The waiting list will be maintained in accordance with the following guidelines:

- A. The application will be a permanent file;
- B. All applications will be maintained in order of bedroom size, preference, and then in order of date and time of application; and
- C. Any contact between the Avon Park Housing Authority and the applicant will be documented in the applicant file.

### **9.3 *FAMILIES NEARING THE TOP OF THE WAITING LIST***

When a family appears to nearing the top of the waiting list, the family will be invited to an interview and the verification process will begin. It is at this point in time that the family's waiting list preference will be verified. If the family no longer qualifies to be near the top of the list, the family's name will be returned to the appropriate spot on the waiting list. The Avon Park Housing Authority must notify the family in writing of this determination and give the family the opportunity for an informal review.

Once the preference has been verified, the family will complete a full application, present Social Security number information, citizenship/eligible immigrant information, and sign the Consent for Release of Information forms.

#### **9.4 *PURGING THE WAITING LIST***

The Avon Park Housing Authority will update and purge its waiting list at least annually to ensure that the pool of applicants reasonably represents the interested families for whom the Avon Park Housing Authority has current information, i.e. applicant's address, family composition, income category, and preferences.

#### **9.5 *REMOVAL OF APPLICANTS FROM THE WAITING LIST***

The Avon Park Housing Authority will not remove an applicant's name from the waiting list unless:

- A. The applicant requests in writing that the name be removed;
- B. The applicant fails to respond to a written request for information or a request to declare their continued interest in the program; or
- C. The applicant does not meet either the eligibility or suitability criteria for the program.

#### **9.6 *MISSED APPOINTMENTS***

All applicants who fail to keep a scheduled appointment with the Avon Park Housing Authority will be sent a notice of termination of the process for eligibility.

The Avon Park Housing Authority will allow the family to reschedule for good cause. Generally, no more than one opportunity will be given to reschedule without good cause, and no more than two opportunities will be given for good cause. When good cause exists for missing an appointment, the Avon Park Housing Authority will work closely with the family to find a more suitable time. Applicants will be offered the right to an informal review before being removed from the waiting list.



## 9.7 NOTIFICATION OF NEGATIVE ACTIONS

Any applicant whose name is being removed from the waiting list will be notified by the Avon Park Housing Authority, in writing, that they have ten (10) calendar days from the date of the written correspondence to present mitigating circumstances or request an informal review. The letter will also indicate that their name will be removed from the waiting list if they fail to respond within the timeframe specified. The Avon Park Housing Authority system of removing applicant names from the waiting list will not violate the rights of persons with disabilities. If an applicant claims that their failure to respond to a request for information or updates was caused by a disability, the Avon Park Housing Authority will verify that there is in fact a disability and the disability caused the failure to respond, and will provide a reasonable accommodation. An example of a reasonable accommodation would be to reinstate the applicant on the waiting list based on the date and time of the original application.

## 10.0 TENANT SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT PLAN

## 10.1 PREFERENCES

The Avon Park Housing Authority will select families based on the following preferences within each bedroom size category based on our local housing needs and priorities:

Involuntary Displacement: individuals or families displaced by government action or whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to Federal Disaster Relief Laws.

[illegible]



preference 3, preference 4 families will be offered housing before any families in preference 5, and preference 5 families will be offered housing before any families in preference 6.

The date and time of application will be noted and utilized to determine the sequence within the above-prescribed preferences.

Notwithstanding the above, families who are elderly, disabled, or displaced will be offered housing before other single persons.

**Buildings or Property Designed for the Elderly and Disabled:** Preference will be given to elderly and disabled families. If there are no elderly or disabled families on the list, preference will then be given to near-elderly families.

**Accessible Units:** Accessible units will be first offered to families who may benefit from the accessible features. Applicants for these units will be selected utilizing the same preference system as outlined above. If there are no applicants who would benefit from the accessible features, the units will be offered to other applicants in the order that their names come to the top of the waiting list. Such applicants, however, must sign a release form stating they will accept a transfer (at their own expense) if, at a future time, a family requiring an accessible feature applies. Any family required to transfer will be given a 30-day notice.

## ***10.2 ASSIGNMENT OF BEDROOM SIZES***

The following guidelines will determine each family's unit size without overcrowding or overhousing:

Number of Bedrooms	Number of Persons	
	Minimum	Maximum
0	1	1
1	1	2
2	2	4
3	3	6
4	4	8

These standards are based on the assumption that each bedroom will accommodate no more than two (2) persons. Zero bedroom units will only be assigned to one-person families.

In determining bedroom size, the Avon Park Housing Authority will include the presence of children to be born to a pregnant woman, children who are in the process of being adopted, children whose custody is being obtained, children who are temporarily away at school, or children who are temporarily in foster care.

In addition, the following considerations may be taken in determining bedroom size:

- A. Children of the same sex will share a bedroom.
- B. Children of the opposite sex, both under the age of two, will share a bedroom.
- C. Adults and children will not be required to share a bedroom.
- D. Foster adults and/or foster children will not be required to share a bedroom with family members.
- E. Live-in aides will get a separate bedroom.

Exceptions to normal bedroom size standards include the following:

- A. Units smaller than assigned through the above guidelines. A family may request a smaller unit size than the guidelines allow. The Avon Park Housing Authority will allow the smaller size unit so long as generally no more than two (2) people per bedroom are assigned. In such situations, the family will sign a certification stating they understand they will be ineligible for a larger size unit for 2 years or until the family size changes, whichever may occur first.
- B. Units larger than assigned through the above guidelines. A family may request a larger unit size than the guidelines allow. The Avon Park Housing Authority will allow the larger size unit if the family provides a verified medical need that the family be housed in a larger unit.
- C. If there are no families on the waiting list for a larger size, smaller families may be housed if they sign a release form stating they will transfer (at the family's own expense) to the appropriate size unit when an eligible family needing the larger unit applies. The family transferring will be given a 30-day notice before being required to move.
- D. Larger units may be offered in order to improve the marketing of a development suffering a high vacancy rate.

### **10.3 SELECTION FROM THE WAITING LIST**

The Avon Park Housing Authority shall follow the statutory requirement that at least 40% of newly admitted families in any fiscal year be families whose annual income is at or below 30% of the area median income. To insure this requirement is met we shall quarterly monitor the incomes of newly admitted families and the incomes of the families on the waiting list. If it appears that the requirement to house extremely low-income families will not be met, we will skip higher income families on the waiting list to reach extremely low-income families.

If admissions of extremely low-income families to the Avon Park Housing Authority's voucher program during a fiscal year exceed the 75 % minimum-targeting requirement for the Avon Park Housing Authority's voucher program, such excess shall be credited (subject to the limitations in this paragraph) against the Avon Park Housing Authority's basic targeting requirement for the same fiscal year.

The fiscal year credit for voucher program admissions that exceeds the minimum voucher program targeting requirement shall not exceed the lower of:

- A. Ten % of public housing waiting list admissions during the Avon Park Housing Authority fiscal year;
- B. Ten % of waiting list admissions to the Avon Park Housing Authority's Section 8 tenant-based assistance program during the PHA fiscal year; or
- C. The number of qualifying low income families who commence occupancy during the fiscal year of Avon Park Housing Authority public housing units located in census tracts with a poverty rate of 30 % or more. For this purpose, qualifying low-income family means a low-income family other than an extremely low-income family.

If there are not enough extremely low-income families on the waiting list we will conduct outreach on a non-discriminatory basis to attract extremely low-income families to reach the statutory requirement.

### **10.4 DECONCENTRATION POLICY**

It is the Avon Park Housing Authority's policy to provide for deconcentration of poverty and encourage income mixing by bringing higher income families into lower income developments and lower income families into higher income developments. Toward this end, we will skip families on the waiting list to reach other families with a lower or higher income. We will accomplish this in a uniform and non-discriminating manner.

The Avon Park Housing Authority will affirmatively market our housing to all eligible income groups. Lower income residents will not be steered toward lower income developments and higher income people will not be steered toward higher income developments.

Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, we will analyze the income levels of families residing in each of our developments and the income levels of the families on the waiting list. Based on this analysis, we will determine the level of marketing strategies and deconcentration incentives to implement.

#### ***10.5 DECONCENTRATION INCENTIVES***

The Avon Park Housing Authority may offer one or more incentives to encourage applicant families whose income classification would help to meet the deconcentration goals of a particular development.

Various incentives may be used at different times, or under different conditions, but will always be provided in a consistent and nondiscriminatory manner.

#### ***10.6 OFFER OF A UNIT***

When the Avon Park Housing Authority discovers that a unit will become available, we will contact the first family on the waiting list who has the highest priority for this type of unit or development and whose income category would help to meet the deconcentration goal and/or the income-targeting goal.

The Avon Park Housing Authority will contact the family first by telephone to make the unit offer. If the family cannot be reached by telephone, the family will be notified of a unit offer via first class mail. The family will be given five (5) business days from the date the letter was mailed to contact the Avon Park Housing Authority regarding the offer.

The family will be offered the opportunity to view the unit. After the opportunity to view the unit, the family will have two (2) business days to accept or reject the unit. This verbal offer and the family's decision must be documented in the tenant file. If the family rejects the offer of the unit, the Avon Park Housing Authority will send the family a letter documenting the offer and the rejection.

#### ***10.7 REJECTION OF UNIT***

If in making the offer to the family the Avon Park Housing Authority skipped over other families on the waiting list in order to meet their deconcentration goal or offered the family any other

deconcentration incentive and the family rejects the unit, the family will not lose their place on the waiting list and will not be otherwise penalized.

If the Avon Park Housing Authority did not skip over other families on the waiting list to reach this family, did not offer any other deconcentration incentive, and the family rejects the unit without good cause, the family will forfeit their application's date and time. The family will keep their preferences, but the date and time of application will be changed to the date and time the unit was rejected.

If the family rejects with good cause any unit offered, they will not lose their place on the waiting list. Good cause includes reasons related to health, proximity to work, school, and childcare (for those working or going to school). The family will be offered the right to an informal review of the decision to alter their application status.

## **10.8 ACCEPTANCE OF UNIT**

The family will be required to sign a lease that will become effective no later than three (3) business days after the date of acceptance or the business day after the day the unit becomes available, whichever is later.

Prior to signing the lease, all families (head of household) and other adult family members will be required to attend the Lease and Occupancy Orientation when they are initially accepted for occupancy. The family will not be housed if they have not attended the orientation. Applicants who provide prior notice of an inability to attend the orientation will be rescheduled. Failure of an applicant to attend the orientation, without good cause, may result in the cancellation of the occupancy process.

The applicant will be provided a copy of the lease, the grievance procedure, utility allowances, utility charges, the current schedule of routine maintenance charges, and a request for reasonable accommodation form. These documents will be explained in detail. The applicant will sign a certification that they have received these documents and that they have reviewed them with Housing Authority personnel. The certification will be filed in the tenant's file.

The signing of the lease and the review of financial information are to be privately handled. The head of household and all adult family members will be required to execute the lease prior to admission. One executed copy of the lease will be furnished to the head of household and the Avon Park Housing Authority will retain the original executed lease in the tenant's file. A copy of the grievance procedure will be attached to the resident's copy of the lease.

The family will pay a security deposit at the time of lease signing. The security deposit will be equal to

- A. \$150 for elderly/disabled families occupying up to 2 bedroom units.
- B. \$250 for all other families.

In exceptional situations, the Avon Park Housing Authority reserves the right to allow a new resident to pay their security deposit in up to six (6) payments. Half (50%) shall be paid in advance, and the remaining shall be paid at the time of the rent, within a period not to exceed six months. This shall be at the sole discretion of the Housing Authority.

In the case of a move within public housing, the security deposit for the first unit will be transferred to the second unit. Additionally, if the security deposit for the second unit is greater than that for the first, the difference will be collected from the family. Conversely, if the security deposit is less, the difference will be refunded to the family.

In the event there are costs attributable to the family for bringing the first unit into condition for re-renting, the family shall be billed for these charges.

## **11.0 INCOME, EXCLUSIONS FROM INCOME, AND DEDUCTIONS FROM INCOME**

- 1.
2. To determine annual income, the Avon Park Housing Authority adds the income of all family members, excluding the types and sources of income that are specifically excluded. Once the annual income is determined, the Avon Park Housing Authority subtracts all allowable deductions (allowances) to determine the Total Tenant Payment.

### **11.1 INCOME**

1. Annual income means all amounts, monetary or not, that:
  - A. Go to (or on behalf of) the family head or spouse (even if temporarily absent) or to any other family member; or
  - 7. B. Are anticipated to be received from a source outside the family during the 12-month period following admission or annual reexamination effective date; and
  - C. Are not specifically excluded from annual income.



If it is not feasible to anticipate a level of income over a 12-month period (e.g. seasonal or cyclic income), or the Avon Park Housing Authority believes that past income is the best available indicator of expected future income, the Avon Park Housing Authority may annualize the income anticipated for a shorter period, subject to a redetermination at the end of the shorter period.

1. Annual income includes, but is not limited to:

7. A. The full amount, before any payroll deductions, of wages and salaries, overtime pay, commissions, fees, tips and bonuses, and other compensation for personal services.
- 8.
9. B. The net income from the operation of a business or profession. Expenditures for business expansion or amortization of capital indebtedness are not used as deductions in determining net income. An allowance for depreciation of assets used in a business or profession may be deducted, based on straight-line depreciation, as provided in Internal Revenue Service regulations. Any withdrawal of cash or assets from the operation of a business or profession is included in income, except to the extent the withdrawal is a reimbursement of cash or assets invested in the operation by the family.
- 10.
11. C. Interest, dividends, and other net income of any kind from real or personal property. Expenditures for amortization of capital indebtedness are not used as deductions in determining net income. An allowance for depreciation of assets used in a business or profession may be deducted, based on straight-line depreciation, as provided in Internal Revenue Service regulations. Any withdrawal of cash or assets from an investment is included in income, except to the extent the withdrawal is reimbursement of cash or assets invested by the family. Where the family has net family assets in excess of \$5,000, annual income includes the greater of the actual income derived from all net family assets or a percentage of the value of such assets based on the current passbook savings rate, as determined by HUD.
- 12.
13. D. The full amount of periodic amounts received from Social Security, annuities, insurance policies, retirement funds, pensions, disability or death benefits, and other similar types of periodic receipts, including a lump-sum amount or prospective monthly amounts for the delayed start of a periodic amount. (However, deferred periodic amounts from supplemental security income and Social Security benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts are excluded.)
- 14.
15. E. Payments in lieu of earnings, such as unemployment and disability compensation, worker's compensation, and severance pay. (However, lump sum additions such as insurance payments from worker's compensation are excluded.)

17. F. Welfare assistance

1. If the welfare assistance payment includes an amount specifically designated for shelter and utilities that is subject to adjustment by the welfare assistance agency in accordance with the actual cost of shelter and utilities, the amount of welfare assistance income to be included as income consists of:

- ۱۲۳۴۵۶۷۸۹۱۰۱۱۱۲۱۳۱۴۱۵۱۶۱۷۱۸۱۹۲۰۲۱۲۲۲۳۲۴۲۵۲۶۲۷۲۸۲۹۳۰۳۱۳۲۳۳۳۴۳۵۳۶۳۷۳۸۳۹۴۰۴۱۴۲۴۳۴۴۴۵۴۶۴۷۴۸۴۹۵۰۵۱۵۲۵۳۵۴۵۵۵۶۵۷۵۸۵۹۶۰۶۱۶۲۶۳۶۴۶۵۶۶۶۷۶۸۶۹۷۰۷۱۷۲۷۳۷۴۷۵۷۶۷۷۷۸۷۹۸۰۸۱۸۲۸۳۸۴۸۵۸۶۸۷۸۸۸۹۹۰۹۱۹۲۹۳۹۴۹۵۹۶۹۷۹۸۹۹۱۰۰۰

a. A family's annual income includes the amount of imputed welfare income (because of a specified welfare benefits reduction, as specified in notice to the Avon Park Housing Authority by the welfare agency) plus the total amount of other annual income.

- b. At the request of the Avon Park Housing Authority, the welfare agency will inform the Avon Park Housing Authority in writing of the amount and term of any specified welfare benefit reduction for a family member, and the reason for such reduction, and will also inform the Avon Park Housing Authority of any subsequent changes in the term or amount of such specified welfare benefit reduction. The Avon Park Housing Authority will use this information to determine the amount of imputed welfare income for a family.
- c. A family's annual income includes imputed welfare income in family annual income, as determined at an interim or regular reexamination of family income and composition, during the term of the welfare benefits reduction (as specified in information provided to the Avon Park Housing Authority by the welfare agency).
- d. The amount of the imputed welfare income is offset by the amount of additional income a family receives that commences after the time the sanction was imposed. When such additional income from other sources is at least equal to the imputed welfare income, the imputed welfare income is reduced to zero.
- e. The Avon Park Housing Authority will not include imputed welfare income in annual income if the family was not an assisted resident at the time of the sanction.
- f. If a resident is not satisfied that the Avon Park Housing Authority has calculated the amount of imputed welfare income in accordance with HUD requirements, and if the Avon Park Housing Authority denies the family's request to modify such amount, then the Avon Park Housing Authority shall give the resident written notice of such denial, with a brief explanation of the basis for the Avon Park Housing Authority's determination of the amount of imputed welfare income. The Avon Park Housing Authority's notice shall also state that if the resident does not agree with the determination, the resident may grieve the decision in accordance with our grievance policy. The resident is not required to pay an escrow deposit for the portion of the resident's rent attributable to the imputed welfare income in order to obtain a grievance hearing.

g. Relations with welfare agencies

- 1). The Avon Park Housing Authority will ask welfare agencies to inform it of any specified welfare benefits reduction for a family member, the reason for such reduction, the term of any such reduction, and any subsequent welfare agency determination affecting the amount or term of a specified welfare benefits reduction. If the welfare agency determines a specified welfare benefits reduction for a family member, and gives the Avon Park Housing Authority written notice of such reduction, the family's annual incomes shall include the imputed welfare income because of the specified welfare benefits reduction.
- 2). The Avon Park Housing Authority is responsible for determining the amount of imputed welfare income that is included in the family's annual income as a result of a specified welfare benefits reduction as determined by the welfare agency, and specified in the notice by the welfare agency to the housing authority. However, the Avon Park Housing Authority is not responsible for determining whether a reduction of welfare benefits by the welfare agency was correctly determined by the welfare agency in accordance with welfare program requirements and procedures, nor for providing the opportunity for review or hearing on such welfare agency determinations.
- 3). Such welfare agency determinations are the responsibility of the welfare agency, and the family may seek appeal of such determinations through the welfare agency's normal due process procedures. The Avon Park Housing Authority shall rely on the welfare agency notice to the Avon Park Housing Authority of the welfare agency's determination of a specified welfare benefits reduction.

7. G. Periodic and determinable allowances, such as alimony, child support payments, and regular contributions or gifts received from organizations or from persons not residing in the dwelling.

8.

9. H. All regular pay, special pay, and allowances of a member of the Armed Forces. (Special pay to a member exposed to hostile fire is excluded.)

10.

## ***11.2 ANNUAL INCOME***

- 1.
2. Annual income does not include the following:
  - A. Income from employment of children (including foster children) under the age of 18 years;
  - B. Payments received for the care of foster children or foster adults (usually persons with disabilities, unrelated to the tenant family, who are unable to live alone);
  - C. Lump-sum additions to family assets, such as inheritances, insurance payments (including payments under health and accident insurance and worker's compensation), capital gains, and settlement for personal or property losses;
  - D. Amounts received by the family that are specifically for, or in reimbursement of, the cost of medical expenses for any family member;
  - E. Income of a live-in aide;
  - F. The full amount of student financial assistance paid directly to the student or to the educational institution;
  - G. The special pay to a family member serving in the Armed Forces who is exposed to hostile fire;
  - H. The amounts received from the following programs:
    1. Amounts received under training programs funded by HUD;
    2. Amounts received by a person with a disability that are disregarded for a limited time for purposes of Supplemental Security Income eligibility and benefits because they are set aside for use under a Plan to Attain Self-Sufficiency (PASS);
    3. Amounts received by a participant in other publicly assisted programs that are specifically for or in reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred (special equipment, clothing, transportation, child care, etc.) and that are made solely to allow participation in a specific program;
    4. Amounts received under a resident service stipend. A resident service stipend is a modest amount (not to exceed \$200 per month) received by a resident for

performing a service for the Housing Authority or owner, on a part-time basis, that enhances the quality of life in the development. Such services may include, but are not limited to, fire patrol, hall monitoring, lawn maintenance, resident initiatives coordination, and serving as a member of the Avon Park Housing Authority governing board. No resident may receive more than one such stipend during the same period of time;

5. Incremental earnings and benefits resulting to any family member from participation in qualifying State or local employment training programs (including training programs not affiliated with a local government) and training of a family member as resident management staff. Amounts excluded by this provision must be received under employment training programs with clearly defined goals and objectives and are excluded only for the period during which the family member participates in the employment training program;
6. Temporary, nonrecurring or sporadic income (including gifts);
7. Reparation payments paid by a foreign government pursuant to claims filed under the laws of that government by persons who were persecuted during the Nazi era;
8. Earnings in excess of \$480 for each full-time student 18 years old or older (excluding the head of household and spouse);
9. Adoption assistance payments in excess of \$480 per adopted child;
10. For family members who enrolled in certain training programs prior to 10/1/99, the earnings and benefits resulting from the participation if the program provides employment training and supportive services in accordance with the Family Support Act of 1988, Section 22 of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437t), or any comparable Federal, State, or local law during the exclusion period. For purposes of this exclusion the following definitions apply:
  - a. Comparable Federal, State or local law means a program providing employment training and supportive services that:
    - i. Is authorized by a Federal, State or local law;
    - ii. Is funded by the Federal, State or local government;
    - iii. Is operated or administered by a public agency; and
    - iv. Has as its objective to assist participants in acquiring employment skills.

- b. Exclusion period means the period during which the family member participates in a program described in this section, plus 18 months from the date the family member begins the first job acquired by the family member after completion of such program that is not funded by public housing assistance under the 1937 Act. If the family member is terminated from employment with good cause, the exclusion period shall end.
- c. Earnings and benefits means the incremental earnings and benefits resulting from a qualifying employment training program or subsequent job.

- 7. 11. The incremental earnings due to employment during a cumulative 12-month period following date of the initial hire shall be excluded. This exclusion (paragraph 11) will not apply for any family who concurrently is eligible for exclusion #10. Additionally, this exclusion is only available to the following families:

8.

- a. Families whose income increases as a result of employment of a family member who was previously unemployed for one or more years.
- b. Families whose income increases during the participation of a family member in any economic self-sufficiency or other job-training program.
- c. Families who are or were, within 6 months, assisted under a State TANF or Welfare-to-Work program.

During the second cumulative 12-month period after the date of initial hire, 50% of the increased income shall be excluded from income.

The disallowance of increased income of an individual family member is limited to a lifetime 48-month period. It only applies for 12 months of the 100% exclusion and 12 months of the 50% exclusion.

(While HUD regulations allow for the housing authority to offer an escrow account in lieu of having a portion of their income excluded under this paragraph, it is the policy of this housing authority to provide the exclusion in all cases.)

- 12. Deferred periodic amounts from supplemental security income and Social Security benefits that are received in a lump sum amount or in prospective monthly amounts;
- 13. Amounts received by the family in the form of refunds or rebates under State or local law for property taxes paid on the dwelling unit;
- 7. 14. Amounts paid by a State agency to a family with a member who has a developmental disability and is living at home to offset the cost of services and equipment needed to keep the developmentally disabled family member at home; or
- 7. 15. Amounts specifically excluded by any other Federal statute from consideration as income for purposes of determining eligibility or benefits. These exclusions include:
  - a. The value of the allotment of food stamps
  - b. Payments to volunteers under the Domestic Volunteer Services Act of 1973
  - c. Payments received under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
  - d. Income from sub marginal land of the U.S. that is held in trust for certain Indian tribes
  - e. Payments made under HHS's Low-Income Energy Assistance Program
  - f. Payments received under the Job Training Partnership Act
  - g. Income from the disposition of funds of the Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians
  - h. The first \$2000 per capita received from judgment funds awarded for certain Indian claims
  - i. Amount of scholarships awarded under Title IV including Work Study
  - j. Payments received under the Older Americans Act of 1965
  - k. Payments from Agent Orange Settlement



- l. Payments received under the Maine Indian Claims Act
- m. The value of childcare under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990
- n. Earned income tax credit refund payments
- o. Payments for living expenses under the Americorps Program
- 1. p. Additional income exclusions provided by and funded by the Avon Park Housing Authority

The Avon Park Housing Authority will not provide exclusions from income in addition to those already provided for by HUD.

### ***11.3 DEDUCTIONS FROM ANNUAL INCOME***

The following deductions will be made from annual income:

- 7. A. \$480 for each dependent;
- 8.
- 9. B. \$400 for any elderly family or disabled family;
- 10. C. The sum of the following, to the extent the sum exceeds three % of annual income:
  - 7.
  - 8. Unreimbursed medical expenses of any elderly family or disabled family; and
  - 9.
  - 10. Unreimbursed reasonable attendant care and auxiliary apparatus expenses for each member of the family who is a person with disabilities, to the extent necessary to enable any member of the family (including the member who is a person with disabilities) to be employed, but this allowance may not exceed the earned income received by family members who are 18 years of age or older who are able to work because of such attendant care or auxiliary apparatus.
  - 11.
  - 12. D. Reasonable childcare expenses necessary to enable a member of the family to be employed or to further his or her education. This deduction shall not exceed the amount of employment income that is included in annual income.

#### **11.4 RECEIPT OF A LETTER OR NOTICE FROM HUD CONCERNING INCOME**

- A. If a public housing resident receives a letter or notice from HUD concerning the amount or verification of family income, the letter shall be brought to the person responsible for income verification within ten (10) days of receipt by the resident.
- B. The Housing Authority shall reconcile any difference between the amount reported by the resident and the amount listed in the HUD communication. This shall be done as promptly as possible.
- C. After the reconciliation is complete, the Avon Park Housing Authority shall adjust the resident's rent beginning at the start of the next month unless the reconciliation is completed during the final five (5) days of the month and then the new rent shall take effect on the first day of the second month following the end of the current month. In addition, if the resident had not previously reported the proper income, the Avon Park Housing Authority shall do one of the following:
  - 1. Immediately collect the back rent due to the agency;
  - 2. Establish a repayment plan for the resident to pay the sum due to the agency;
  - 3. Terminate the lease and evict for failure to report income; or
  - 4. Terminate the lease, evict for failure to report income, and collect the back rent due to the agency.

#### **11.5 COOPERATING WITH WELFARE AGENCIES**

The Avon Park Housing Authority will make its best efforts to enter into cooperation agreements with local welfare agencies under which the welfare agencies will agree:

- A. To target assistance, benefits and services to families receiving assistance in the public housing and Section 8 tenant-based assistance program to achieve self-sufficiency; and
- B. To provide written verification to the Avon Park Housing Authority concerning welfare benefits for families applying for or receiving assistance in our housing assistance programs.

## **12.0 VERIFICATION**

The Avon Park Housing Authority will verify information related to waiting list preferences, eligibility, admission, and level of benefits prior to admission. Periodically during occupancy, items related to eligibility and rent determination shall also be reviewed and verified. Income, assets, and expenses will be verified, as well as disability status, need for a live-in aide and other reasonable accommodations; full-time student status of family members 18 years of age and older; Social Security numbers; and citizenship/eligible non-citizen status. Age and relationship will only be verified in those instances where needed to make a determination of level of assistance.

### ***12.1 ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF VERIFICATION***

Age, relationship, U.S. citizenship, and Social Security numbers will generally be verified with documentation provided by the family. For citizenship, the family's certification will be accepted. (Or, for citizenship, documentation such as listed below will be required.) Verification of these items will include photocopies of the Social Security cards and other documents presented by the family, the INS SAVE approval code, and forms signed by the family.

Other information will be verified by third party verification. This type of verification includes written documentation with forms sent directly to and received directly by a source, not passed through the hands of the family. This verification may also be direct contact with the source, in person or by telephone. It may also be a report generated by a request from the Avon Park Housing Authority or automatically by another government agency, i.e., the Social Security Administration. Verification forms and reports received will be contained in the applicant/tenant file. Oral third party documentation will include the same information as if the documentation had been written, i.e., name, date of contact, amount received, etc.

When third party verification cannot be obtained, the Avon Park Housing Authority will accept documentation received from the applicant/tenant. Hand-carried documentation will be accepted if the Avon Park Housing Authority has been unable to obtain third party verification in a 4-week period of time. Photocopies of the documents provided by the family will be maintained in the file.

When neither third party verification nor hand-carried verification can be obtained, the Avon Park Housing Authority will accept a notarized statement signed by the head, spouse or co-head. Such documents will be maintained in the file.

### ***12.2 TYPES OF VERIFICATION***

The chart below outlines the factors that may be verified and gives common examples of the verification that will be sought. To obtain written third party verification, the Avon Park Housing Authority will send a request form to the source along with a release form signed by the applicant/tenant via first class mail.

Verification Requirements for Individual Items		
Item to Be Verified	3 <sup>rd</sup> party verification	Hand-carried verification
<b>General Eligibility Items</b>		
Social Security Number	Letter from Social Security, electronic reports	Social Security card
Citizenship	N/A	Signed certification, voter's registration card, birth certificate, etc.
Eligible immigration status	INS SAVE confirmation #	INS card
Disability	Letter from medical professional, SSI, etc	Proof of SSI or Social Security disability payments
Full time student status (if >18)	Letter from school	For high school students, any document evidencing enrollment
Need for a live-in aide	Letter from doctor or other professional knowledgeable of condition	N/A
Child care costs	Letter from care provider	Bills and receipts
Disability assistance expenses	Letters from suppliers, care givers, etc.	Bills and records of payment
Medical expenses	Letters from providers, prescription record from pharmacy, medical professional's letter stating assistance or a companion animal is needed	Bills, receipts, records of payment, dates of trips, mileage log, receipts for fares and tolls
<b>Value of and Income from Assets</b>		

Verification Requirements for Individual Items		
Item to Be Verified	3 <sup>rd</sup> party verification	Hand-carried verification
Savings, checking accounts	Letter from institution	Passbook, most current statements
CDS, bonds, etc	Letter from institution	Tax return, information brochure from institution, the CD, the bond
Stocks	Letter from broker or holding company	Stock or most current statement, price in newspaper or through Internet
Real property	Letter from tax office, assessment, etc.	Property tax statement (for current value), assessment, records or income and expenses, tax return
Personal property	Assessment, bluebook, etc	Receipt for purchase, other evidence of worth
Cash value of life insurance policies	Letter from insurance company	Current statement
Assets disposed of for less than fair market value	N/A	Original receipt and receipt at disposition, other evidence of worth
<b>Income</b>		
Earned income	Letter from employer	Multiple pay stubs
Self-employed	N/A	Tax return from prior year, books of accounts
Regular gifts and contributions	Letter from source, letter from organization receiving gift (i.e., if grandmother pays day care provider, the day care provider could so state)	Bank deposits, other similar evidence
Alimony/child support	Court order, letter from source, letter from Human Services	Record of deposits, divorce decree
Periodic payments (i.e.,		



their status through the INS SAVE system. If the INS SAVE system cannot confirm eligibility, the Avon Park Housing Authority will mail information to the INS in order that a manual check can be made of INS records.

7. Family members who do not claim to be citizens, nationals, or eligible non-citizens must be listed on a statement of non-eligible members and the list must be signed by the head of the household.
7. Non-citizen students on student visas, though in the country legally, are not eligible to be admitted to public housing.
7. Any family member who does not choose to declare their status must be listed on the statement of non-eligible members.
- 8.
9. If no family member is determined to be eligible under this section, the family's eligibility will be denied.
7. The family's assistance will not be denied, delayed, reduced, or terminated because of a delay in the process of determining eligible status under this section, except to the extent that the delay is caused by the family.
7. If the Avon Park Housing Authority determines that a family member has knowingly permitted an ineligible non-citizen (other than any ineligible non-citizens listed on the lease) to permanently reside in their public housing unit, the family will be evicted. Such family will not be eligible to be readmitted to public housing for a period of 24 months from the date of eviction or termination.

#### ***12.4 VERIFICATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS***

7. Prior to admission, each family member who has a Social Security number and who is at least 6 years of age must provide verification of their Social Security number. New family members at least 6 years of age must provide this verification prior to being added to the lease. Children in assisted households must provide this verification at the first regular reexamination after turning six.
7. The best verification of the Social Security number is the original Social Security card. If the card is not available, the Avon Park Housing Authority will accept letters from the Social Security Agency that establishes and states the number. Documentation from other governmental agencies will also be accepted that establishes and states the number. Driver's licenses, military IDs, passports, or other official documents that establish and state the number are also acceptable.

7. If an individual states that they do not have a Social Security number, they will be required to sign a statement to this effect. The Avon Park Housing Authority will not require any individual who does not have a Social Security number to obtain a Social Security number.
7. If a member of an applicant family indicates they have a Social Security number, but cannot readily verify it, the family cannot be housed until verification is provided.
- 8.
9. If a member of a tenant family indicates they have a Social Security number, but cannot readily verify it, they shall be asked to certify to this fact and shall have up to sixty (60) days to provide the verification. If the individual is at least 62 years of age, they will be given one hundred and twenty (120) days to provide the verification. If the individual fails to provide the verification within the time allowed, the family will be evicted.

#### **12.5 TIMING OF VERIFICATION**

Verification information must be dated within ninety (90) days of certification or reexamination. If the verification is older than this, the source will be contacted and asked to provide information regarding any changes.

When an interim reexamination is conducted, the Housing Authority will verify and update all information related to family circumstances and level of assistance. (Or, the Housing Authority will only verify and update those elements reported to have changed.)

#### **12.6 FREQUENCY OF OBTAINING VERIFICATION**

For each family member, citizenship/eligible non-citizen status will be verified only once. This verification will be obtained prior to admission. If the status of any family member was not determined prior to admission, verification of their status will be obtained at the next regular reexamination. Prior to a new member joining the family, their citizenship/eligible non-citizen status will be verified.

For each family member age 6 and above, verification of Social Security number will be obtained only once. This verification will be accomplished prior to admission. When a family member who did not have a Social Security number at admission receives a Social Security number, that number will be verified at the next regular reexamination. Likewise, when a child turns six, their verification will be obtained at the next regular reexamination.

### **13.0 DETERMINATION OF TOTAL TENANT PAYMENT AND TENANT RENT**



### **13.1 FAMILY CHOICE**

At admission and each year in preparation for their annual reexamination, each family is given the choice of having their rent determined under the income method or having their rent set at the flat rent amount.

7. A. Families who opt for the flat rent will be required to go through the income reexamination process every three years, rather than the annual review they would otherwise undergo.
7. B. Families who opt for the flat rent may request to have a reexamination and return to the income based method at any time for any of the following reasons:
  1. The family's income has decreased.
  2. The family's circumstances have changed increasing their expenses for childcare, medical care, etc.
  3. Other circumstances creating a hardship on the family such that the income method would be more financially feasible for the family.
- C. Families have only one choice per year except for financial hardship cases. In order for families to make informed choices about their rent options, the XYZ will provide them with the following information whenever they have to make rent decisions:
  1. The Avon Park Housing Authority's policies on switching types of rent in case of a financial hardship; and
  2. The dollar amount of tenant rent for the family under each option. If the family chose a flat rent for the previous year, the Avon Park Housing Authority will provide the amount of income-based rent for the subsequent year only the year the Avon Park Housing Authority conducts an income reexamination or if the family specifically requests it and submits updated income information.

### **13.2 THE INCOME METHOD**

The total tenant payment is equal to the highest of:

- A. 10% of the family's monthly income;
- B. 30% of the family's adjusted monthly income; or

C. If the family is receiving payments for welfare assistance from a public agency and a part of those payments, adjusted in accordance with the family's actual housing costs, is specifically designated by such agency to meet the family's housing costs, the portion of those payments which is so designated. If the family's welfare assistance is ratably reduced from the standard of need by applying a percentage, the amount calculated under this provision is the amount resulting from one application of the percentage; or

D. The minimum rent of \$50.

### **13.3 MINIMUM RENT**

The Avon Park Housing Authority has set the minimum rent at \$50. If the family requests a hardship exemption, however, the Avon Park Housing Authority will suspend the minimum rent beginning the month following the family's request until the Housing Authority can determine whether the hardship exists and whether the hardship is of a temporary or long-term nature, and the family is not receiving any income assistance from any source.

A. A hardship exists in the following circumstances:

1. When the family has lost eligibility for or is waiting an eligibility determination for a Federal, State, or local assistance program, including a family that includes a member who is a non-citizen lawfully admitted for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act who would be entitled to public benefits but for title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996;
2. When the family would be evicted because it is unable to pay the minimum rent;
3. When the income of the family has decreased because of changed circumstances, including loss of employment; and
4. When a death has occurred in the family.

B. No hardship. If the Housing Authority determines there is no qualifying hardship, the minimum rent will be reinstated, including requiring back payment of minimum rent for the time of suspension.

C. Temporary hardship. If the Housing Authority reasonably determines that there is a qualifying hardship but that it is of a temporary nature, the minimum rent will be not be imposed for a period of 90 days from the beginning of the suspension of the minimum rent. At the end of the 90-day period, the minimum rent will be imposed retroactively to

the time of suspension. The Housing Authority will offer a repayment agreement in accordance with Section 19 of this policy for any rent not paid during the period of suspension. During the suspension period the Housing Authority will not evict the family for nonpayment of the amount of tenant rent owed for the suspension period.

- D. Long-term hardship. If the Housing Authority determines there is a long-term hardship, the family will be exempt from the minimum rent requirement until the hardship no longer exists.
- E. Appeals. The family may use the grievance procedure to appeal the Housing Authority's determination regarding the hardship. No escrow deposit will be required in order to access the grievance procedure.

#### **13.4 THE FLAT RENT**

The Avon Park Housing Authority has set a flat rent for each public housing unit. In doing so, it considered the size and type of the unit, as well as its age, condition, amenities, services, and neighborhood. The Avon Park Housing Authority determined the market value of the unit and set the rent at the market value. The amount of the flat rent will be reevaluated annually and adjustments applied. Affected families will be given a 30-day notice of any rent change. Adjustments are applied on the anniversary date for each affected family (for more information on flat rents, see Section 15.3).

The Avon Park Housing Authority will post the flat rents at each of the developments and at the central office.

There is no utility allowance for families paying a flat rent.

#### **13.5 CEILING RENT**

The Avon Park Housing Authority has set a ceiling rent for each public housing unit. The amount of the ceiling rent will be reevaluated annually and the adjustments applied. Affected families will be given a 30-day notice of any rent change. Adjustments are applied on the anniversary date for each affected family.

The Avon Park Housing Authority will post the ceiling rents at each of the developments and at the central office. Ceiling rents are incorporated in this policy upon approval by the Board of Commissioners.

#### **13.6 RENT FOR FAMILIES UNDER THE NONCITIZEN RULE**

7. A mixed family will receive full continuation of assistance if all of the following conditions are met:

- A. The family was receiving assistance on June 19, 1995;
- B. The family was granted continuation of assistance before November 29, 1996;
- C. The family's head or spouse has eligible immigration status; and
- D. The family does not include any person who does not have eligible status other than the head of household, the spouse of the head of household, any parent of the head or spouse, or any child (under the age of 18) of the head or spouse.

If a mixed family qualifies for prorated assistance but decides not to accept it, or if the family has no eligible members, the family may be eligible for temporary deferral of termination of assistance to permit the family additional time for the orderly transition of some or all of its members to locate other affordable housing. Under this provision, the family receives full assistance. If assistance is granted under this provision prior to November 29, 1996, it may last no longer than three (3) years. If granted after that date, the maximum period of time for assistance under the provision is eighteen (18) months. The Avon Park Housing Authority will grant each family a period of six (6) months to find suitable affordable housing. If the family cannot find suitable affordable housing, the Avon Park Housing Authority will provide additional search periods up to the maximum time allowable.

Suitable housing means housing that is not substandard and is of appropriate size for the family. Affordable housing means that it can be rented for an amount not exceeding the amount the family pays for rent, plus utilities, plus 25%.

The family's assistance is prorated in the following manner:

- A. Determine the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile of gross rents (tenant rent plus utility allowance) for the Avon Park Housing Authority. The 95<sup>th</sup> percentile is called the maximum rent.
- B. Subtract the family's total tenant payment from the maximum rent. The resulting number is called the maximum subsidy.
- C. Divide the maximum subsidy by the number of family members and multiply the result times the number of eligible family members. This yields the prorated subsidy.

- D. Subtract the prorated subsidy from the maximum rent to find the prorated total tenant payment. From this amount subtract the full utility allowance to obtain the prorated tenant rent.

### **13.7 UTILITY ALLOWANCE**

7. The Avon Park Housing Authority shall establish a utility allowance for all check-metered utilities and for all tenant-paid utilities. The allowance will be based on a reasonable consumption of utilities by an energy-conservative household of modest circumstances consistent with the requirements of a safe, sanitary, and healthful environment. In setting the allowance, the Avon Park Housing Authority will review the actual consumption of tenant families as well as changes made or anticipated due to modernization (weatherization efforts, installation of energy-efficient appliances, etc). Allowances will be evaluated at least annually as well as any time utility rate changes by 10% or more since the last revision to the allowances.

The utility allowance will be subtracted from the family's income rent to determine the amount of the Tenant Rent. The Tenant Rent is the amount the family owes each month to the Avon Park Housing Authority. The amount of the utility allowance is then still available to the family to pay the cost of their utilities. Any utility cost above the allowance is the responsibility of the tenant. Any savings resulting from utility costs below the amount of the allowance belongs to the tenant.

For Avon Park Housing Authority paid utilities, the Avon Park Housing Authority will monitor the utility consumption of each household. Any consumption in excess of the allowance established by the Avon Park Housing Authority will be billed to the tenant monthly.

7. Utility allowance revisions based on rate changes shall be effective retroactively to the first day of the month following the month in which the last rate change took place. Revisions based on changes in consumption or other reasons shall become effective at each family's next annual reexamination.
  1. Families with high utility costs are encouraged to contact the Avon Park Housing Authority or local electric company for an energy analysis. The analysis may identify problems with the dwelling unit that once corrected will reduce energy costs. The analysis can also assist the family in identifying ways they can reduce their costs.
7. Requests for relief from surcharges for excess consumption of Avon Park Housing Authority purchased utilities or from payment of utility supplier billings in excess of the utility allowance for tenant-paid utility costs may be granted by the Avon Park Housing Authority on reasonable grounds. Requests shall be granted to families that include an elderly member or a member with disabilities. Requests by the family shall be submitted under the Reasonable Accommodation

Policy. Families shall be advised of their right to individual relief at admission to public housing and at time of utility allowance changes.

### **13.8 PAYING RENT**

Rent and other charges are due and payable on the first day of the month. All rents should be paid at the Housing Authority office, or to the local post office box. Reasonable accommodations for this requirement will be made for persons with disabilities. As a safety measure, no cash shall be accepted as payment for rent or other charges.

If the rent is not paid by the seventh of the month, a Notice to Vacate will be issued to the tenant. In addition, a \$25 late fee will be assessed to the tenant. If rent is paid by a personal check and the check is returned for insufficient funds, this shall be considered a non-payment of rent and will incur the late charge plus an additional charge at the current rate charged by the bank, with the current fee posted in the Housing Authority offices.

## **14.0 CONTINUED OCCUPANCY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE POLICY**

### **14.1 GENERAL**

In order to be eligible for continued occupancy, each adult family member must either (1) contribute eight hours per month of community service (not including political activities), or (2) participate in an economic self-sufficiency program, or (3) perform eight hours per month of combined activities as previously described unless they are exempt from this requirement.

### **14.2 EXEMPTIONS**

7.

8. The following adult family members of tenant families are exempt from this requirement:

- A. Family members who are 62 or older.
- B. Family members who are blind or disabled as defined under 216(I)(1) or 1614 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 416(I)(1) and who certifies that because of this disability she or he is unable to comply with the community service requirements.
- C. Family members who are the primary care giver for someone who is blind or disabled

as set forth in Paragraph B above.

- D. Family members engaged in work activity.
- E. Family members who are exempt from work activity under part A title IV of the Social Security Act or under any other State welfare program, including the welfare-to-work program.
- F. Family members receiving assistance, benefits or services under a State program funded under part A title IV of the Social Security Act or under any other State welfare program, including welfare-to-work and who are in compliance with that program.

### ***14.3 NOTIFICATION OF THE REQUIREMENT***

The Avon Park Housing Authority shall identify all adult family members who are apparently not exempt from the community service requirement.

The Avon Park Housing Authority shall notify all such family members of the community service requirement and of the categories of individuals who are exempt from the requirement. The notification will provide the opportunity for family members to claim and explain an exempt status. The Avon Park Housing Authority shall verify such claims.

The notification will advise families that their community service obligation will begin upon the effective date of their first annual reexamination on or after December 31, 2000.

For families paying a flat rent, the obligation begins on the date their annual reexamination would have been effective had an annual reexamination taken place. It will also advise them that failure to comply with the community service requirement will result in ineligibility for continued occupancy at the time of any subsequent annual reexamination.

### ***14.4 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES***

Community service includes performing work or duties in the public benefit that serve to improve the quality of life and/or enhance resident self-sufficiency, and/or increase the self-responsibility of the resident within the community.

An economic self-sufficiency program is one that is designed to encourage, assist, train or facilitate the economic independence of participants and their families or to provide work for participants. These programs may include programs for job training, work placement, basic skills training, education, English proficiency, work fare, financial or household management,

apprenticeship, and any program necessary to ready a participant to work (such as substance abuse or mental health treatment).

The Avon Park Housing Authority will coordinate with the City of Avon Park and other local governmental agencies, social service agencies, local schools and church organizations in identifying a list of volunteer community service positions.

#### **14.5 THE PROCESS**

At the first annual reexamination on or after January 1, 2001 and each annual reexamination thereafter, the Avon Park Housing Authority will do the following:

- A. Provide a list of volunteer opportunities to the family members.
- B. Provide information about obtaining suitable volunteer positions.
- C. Provide a volunteer time sheet to the family member. Instructions for the time sheet require the individual to complete the form and have a supervisor date and sign for each period of work. The forms are to be returned to the Housing Authority office on the first of each month, during the time that rent payments are due.
- E. Thirty (30) days before the family's next lease anniversary date, the file will be examined to assure whether each applicable adult family member is in compliance with the community service requirement.

#### **14.6 NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT**

The Avon Park Housing Authority will notify any family found to be in noncompliance of the following:

- A. The family member(s) has been determined to be in noncompliance;
- B. That the determination is subject to the grievance procedure; and
- C. That, unless the family member(s) enter into an agreement to comply, the lease will not be renewed or will be terminated;

7.

#### **14.7 OPPORTUNITY FOR CURE**

The Avon Park Housing Authority will offer the family member(s) the opportunity to enter into an



agreement prior to the anniversary of the lease. The agreement shall state that the family member(s) agrees to enter into an economic self-sufficiency program or agrees to contribute to community service for as many hours as needed to comply with the requirement over the past 12-month period. The cure shall occur over the 12-month period beginning with the date of the agreement and the resident shall at the same time stay current with that year's community service requirement. The first hours a resident earns go toward the current commitment until the current year's commitment is made.

The Housing Authority will assist the family member in identifying volunteer opportunities and will track compliance on a monthly basis.

If any applicable family member does not accept the terms of the agreement, does not fulfill their obligation to participate in an economic self-sufficiency program, or falls behind in their obligation under the agreement to perform community service, the Avon Park Housing Authority shall take action to terminate the lease.

#### **14.8 PROHIBITION AGAINST REPLACEMENT OF AGENCY EMPLOYEES**

In implementing the service requirement, the Avon Park Housing Authority may not substitute community service or self-sufficiency activities performed by residents for work ordinarily performed by its employees, or replace a job at any location where residents perform activities to satisfy the service requirement.

### **15.0 RECERTIFICATIONS**

At least annually, the Avon Park Housing Authority will conduct a reexamination of family income and circumstances. The results of the reexamination determine (1) the rent the family will pay, and (2) whether the family is housed in the correct unit size.

#### **15.1 GENERAL**

7. The Avon Park Housing Authority will send a notification letter to the family letting them know that it is time for their annual reexamination, giving them the option of selecting either the flat rent or income method, and scheduling an appointment if they are currently paying an income rent. If the family thinks they may want to switch from a flat rent to an income rent, they should request an appointment. At the appointment, the family can make their final decision regarding which rent method they will choose. The letter also includes, for those families paying the income method, forms for the family to complete in preparation for the interview. The letter includes instructions permitting the family to reschedule the interview if necessary. The letter tells families who may need to make alternate arrangements due to a disability that they may contact staff to

request an accommodation of their needs.

- 8.
9. During the appointment, the Avon Park Housing Authority will determine whether family composition may require a transfer to a different bedroom size unit, and if so, the family's name will be placed on the transfer list.

## **15.2 MISSED APPOINTMENTS**

If the family fails to respond to the letter and fails to attend the interview, a second letter will be mailed. The second letter will advise of a new time and date for the interview, allowing for the same considerations for rescheduling and accommodation as above. The letter will also advise that failure by the family to attend the second scheduled interview will result in the Avon Park Housing Authority taking eviction actions against the family.

## **15.3 FLAT RENTS**

The annual letter to flat rent payers regarding the reexamination process will state the following:

7. A. Each year at the time of the annual reexamination, the family has the option of selecting a flat rent amount in lieu of completing the reexamination process and having their rent based on the income amount.
7. B. The amount of the flat rent.
7. C. A fact sheet about income rents that explains the types of income counted, the most common types of income excluded, and the categories of allowances that can be deducted from income.
- 8.
9. D. Families who opt for the flat rent will be required to go through the income reexamination process every three years, rather than the annual review they otherwise would undergo.
7. E. Families who opt for the flat rent may request to have a reexamination and return to the income based method at any time for any of the following reasons:
  1. The family's income has decreased.
  2. The family's circumstances have changed increasing their expenses for childcare, medical care, etc.
  3. Other circumstances creating a hardship on the family such that the income

method would be more financially feasible for the family.

7. F. The dates upon which the Avon Park Housing Authority expects to review the amount of the flat rent, the approximate rent increase the family could expect, and the approximate date upon which a future rent increase could become effective.
7. G. The name and phone number of an individual to call to get additional information or counseling concerning flat rents.
7. H. A certification for the family to sign accepting or declining the flat rent.
- 8.
9. Each year prior to their anniversary date, Avon Park Housing Authority will send a reexamination letter to the family offering the choice between a flat or an income rent. The opportunity to select the flat rent is available only at this time. At the appointment, the Avon Park Housing Authority may assist the family in identifying the rent method that would be most advantageous for the family. If the family wishes to select the flat rent method without meeting with the Avon Park Housing Authority representative, they may make the selection on the form and return the form to the Avon Park Housing Authority. In such case, the Avon Park Housing Authority will cancel the appointment.

#### **15.4 THE INCOME METHOD**

7. During the interview, the family will provide all information regarding income, assets, expenses, and other information necessary to determine the family's share of rent. The family will sign the HUD consent form and other consent forms that later will be mailed to the sources that will verify the family circumstances.
7. Upon receipt of verification, the Avon Park Housing Authority will determine the family's annual income and will calculate their rent as follows.
8. The total tenant payment is equal to the highest of:
  - A. 10% of monthly income;
  - B. 30% of adjusted monthly income;
  - C. The welfare rent; or
  - D. The minimum rent.

### **15.5 EFFECTIVE DATE OF RENT CHANGES FOR ANNUAL REEXAMINATIONS**

7. The new rent will generally be effective upon the anniversary date with thirty (30) days notice of any rent increase to the family.
7. If the rent determination is delayed due to a reason beyond the control of the family, then any rent increase will be effective the first of the month after the month in which the family receives a 30-day notice of the amount. If the new rent is a reduction and the delay is beyond the control of the family, the reduction will be effective as scheduled on the anniversary date.
7. If the family caused the delay, then any increase will be effective on the anniversary date. Any reduction will be effective the first of the month after the rent amount is determined.

### **15.6 INTERIM REEXAMINATIONS**

During an interim reexamination, only the information affected by the changes being reported will be reviewed and verified.

7. Families will not be required to report any increase in income or decrease in allowable expenses between annual reexaminations.
7. Families are required to report the following changes to the Avon Park Housing Authority between regular reexaminations. If the family's rent is being determined under the income method, these changes will trigger an interim reexamination. The family shall report these changes within ten (10) days of their occurrence.
  - A. A member has been added to the family through birth or adoption or court-awarded custody.
  - B. A household member is leaving or has left the family unit.

In order to add a household member other than through birth or adoption (including a live-in aide), the family must request that the new member be added to the lease. Before adding the new member to the lease, the individual must complete an application form stating their income, assets, and all other information required of an applicant. The individual must provide their Social Security number if they have one and must verify their citizenship/eligible immigrant status. (Their housing will not be delayed due to delays in verifying eligible immigrant status other than delays caused by the family.) The new family member will go through the screening process similar to the process for applicants. The Avon Park Housing Authority will determine the eligibility of the individual before adding them to the lease. If the individual is found to be ineligible or does not pass the screening criteria, they will be advised in writing and given the

opportunity for an informal review. If they are found to be eligible and do pass the screening criteria, their name will be added to the lease. At the same time, if the family's rent is being determined under the income method, the family's annual income will be recalculated taking into account the circumstances of the new family member. The effective date of the new rent will be in accordance with Section 15.8.

7. Families are not required to, but may at any time, request an interim reexamination based on a decrease in income, an increase in allowable expenses, or other changes in family circumstances. Upon such request, the Avon Park Housing Authority will take timely action to process the interim reexamination and recalculate the tenant's rent.

### ***15.7 SPECIAL REEXAMINATIONS***

If a family's income is too unstable to project for twelve (12) months, including families that temporarily have no income (0 renters) or have a temporary decrease in income, the Avon Park Housing Authority may schedule special reexaminations every sixty (60) days until the income stabilizes and an annual income can be determined.

### ***15.8 EFFECTIVE DATE OF RENT CHANGES DUE TO INTERIM OR SPECIAL REEXAMINATIONS***

Unless there is a delay in reexamination processing caused by the family, any rent increase will be effective the first of the second month after the month in which the family receives notice of the new rent amount. If the family causes a delay, then the rent increase will be effective on the date it would have been effective had the process not been delayed (even if this means a retroactive increase).

7. If the new rent is a reduction and any delay is beyond the control of the family, the reduction will be effective the first of the month after the interim reexamination should have been completed.
7. If the new rent is a reduction and the family caused the delay or did not report the change in a timely manner, the change will be effective the first of the month after the rent amount is determined.
- 8.

## **16.0 UNIT TRANSFERS**

### ***16.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE TRANSFER POLICY***

The objectives of the Transfer Policy include the following:

1. A. To address emergency situations.
1. B. To fully utilize available housing resources while avoiding overcrowding by insuring that each family occupies the appropriate size unit.
1. C. To facilitate a relocation when required for modernization or other management purposes.
1. D. To facilitate relocation of families with inadequate housing accommodations.
1. E. To provide an incentive for families to assist in meeting the Avon Park Housing Authority's deconcentration goal.
1. F. To eliminate vacancy loss and other expenses due to unnecessary transfers.

## **16.2 CATEGORIES OF TRANSFERS**

1. Category A: Emergency transfers. These transfers are necessary when conditions pose an immediate threat to the life, health, or safety of a family or one of its members. Such situations may involve defects of the unit or the building in which it is located, the health condition of a family member, a hate crime, the safety of witnesses to a crime, or a law enforcement matter particular to the neighborhood.
1. Category B: Immediate administrative transfers. These transfers are necessary in order to permit a family needing accessible features to move to a unit with such a feature or to enable modernization work to proceed.
1. Category C: Regular administrative transfers. These transfers are made to offer incentives to families willing to help meet certain Avon Park Housing Authority occupancy goals, to correct occupancy standards where the unit size is inappropriate for the size and composition of the family, to allow for non-emergency but medically advisable transfers, and other transfers approved by the Avon Park Housing Authority when a transfer is the only or best way of solving a serious problem.

## **16.3 DOCUMENTATION**

When the transfer is at the request of the family, the family may be required to provide third party verification of the need for the transfer.

## **16.4 INCENTIVE TRANSFERS**

Transfer requests will be encouraged and approved for families who live in a development where their income category (below or above 30% of area median) predominates and wish to move to a development where their income category does not predominate.

Families living in multifamily developments have the opportunity to transfer to scattered-site housing. Families approved for such transfers will meet the following eligibility criteria:

7. A. Have been a tenant for three years;
7. B. For a minimum of one year, at least one adult family member is enrolled in an economic self-sufficiency program or is working at least thirty-five (35) hours per week, the adult family members are 62 years of age or older or are disabled or are the primary care givers to others with disabilities;
7. C. Adult members who are required to perform community service have been current in these responsibilities since the inception of the requirement or for one year whichever is less;
7. D. The family is current in the payment of all charges owed to the Avon Park Housing Authority and has not paid late rent for at least one year;
7. E. The family passes a current housekeeping inspection and does not have any record of housekeeping problems during the last year;
7. F. The family has not materially violated the lease over the past two years by disturbing the peaceful enjoyment of their neighbors, by engaging in criminal or drug-related activity, or by threatening the health or safety of tenants or Housing Authority staff;
7. G. Participates in a series of classes conducted by the Avon Park Housing Authority on basic home and yard care.

## **16.5 PROCESSING TRANSFERS**

Transfers on the waiting list will be sorted by the above categories and within each category by date and time.

Transfers in category A and B will be housed ahead of any other families, including those on the applicant waiting list. Transfers in category A will be housed ahead of transfers in category B.

Transfers in category C will be housed along with applicants for admission at a ratio of one transfer

for every seven admissions.

Upon offer and acceptance of a unit, the family will execute all lease up documents and pay any rent and/or security deposit within two (2) days of being informed the unit is ready to rent. The family will be allowed seven (7) days to complete a transfer. The family will be responsible for paying rent at the old unit as well as the new unit for any period of time they have possession of both. The prorated rent and other charges (key deposit and any additional security deposit owing) must be paid at the time of lease execution.

The following is the policy for the rejection of an offer to transfer:

- A. If the family rejects with good cause any unit offered, they will not lose their place on the transfer waiting list.
- B. If the transfer is being made at the request of the Avon Park Housing Authority and the family rejects two offers without good cause, the Avon Park Housing Authority will take action to terminate their tenancy. If the reason for the transfer is that the current unit is too small to meet the Avon Park Housing Authority's optimum occupancy standards, the family may request in writing to stay in the unit without being transferred so long as their occupancy will not exceed two people per living/sleeping room.
- C. If the transfer is being made at the family's request and the rejected offer provides deconcentration incentives, the family will maintain their place on the transfer list and will not otherwise be penalized.
- D. If the transfer is being made at the family's request, the family may, without good cause and without penalty, turn down one offer that does not include deconcentration incentives. After turning down a second such offer without good cause, the family's name will be removed from the transfer list.

## ***16.6 COST OF THE FAMILY'S MOVE***

- 7. The cost of the transfer generally will be borne by the family in the following circumstances:
  - A. When the transfer is made at the request of the family or by others on behalf of the family (i.e. by the police);
  - B. When the transfer is needed to move the family to an appropriately sized unit, either larger or smaller;
  - C. When the transfer is necessitated because a family with disabilities needs the accessible



unit into which the transferring family moved (The family without disabilities signed a statement to this effect prior to accepting the accessible unit); or

- D. When the transfer is needed because action or inaction by the family caused the unit to be unsafe or uninhabitable.
7. The cost of the transfer will be borne by the Avon Park Housing Authority in the following circumstances:
- A. When the transfer is needed in order to carry out rehabilitation activities; or
  - B. When action or inaction by the Avon Park Housing Authority has caused the unit to be unsafe or inhabitable.
- 7.
8. The responsibility for moving costs in other circumstances will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

#### ***16.7 TENANTS IN GOOD STANDING***

When the transfer is at the request of the family, it will not be approved unless the family is in good standing with the Avon Park Housing Authority. This means the family must be in compliance with their lease, current in all payments to the Housing Authority, and must pass a housekeeping inspection.

#### ***16.8 TRANSFER REQUESTS***

A tenant may request a transfer at any time by completing a transfer request form. In considering the request, the Avon Park Housing Authority may request a meeting with the tenant to better understand the need for transfer and to explore possible alternatives. The Avon Park Housing Authority will review the request in a timely manner and if a meeting is desired, it shall contact the tenant within ten (10) business days of receipt of the request to schedule a meeting.

The Avon Park Housing Authority will grant or deny the transfer request in writing within ten (10) business days of receiving the request or holding the meeting, whichever is later.

If the transfer is approved, the family's name will be added to the transfer waiting list.

If the transfer is denied, the denial letter will advise the family of their right to utilize the grievance procedure.

## ***16.9 RIGHT OF THE AVON PARK HOUSING AUTHORITY IN TRANSFER POLICY***

The provisions listed above are to be used as a guide to insure fair and impartial means of assigning units for transfers. It is not intended that this policy will create a property right or any other type of right for a tenant to transfer or refuse to transfer.

## **17.0 INSPECTIONS**

An authorized representative of the Avon Park Housing Authority and an adult family member will inspect the premises prior to commencement of occupancy. A written statement of the condition of the premises will be made, all equipment will be provided, and the statement will be signed by both parties with a copy retained in the Avon Park Housing Authority file and a copy given to the family member. An authorized Avon Park Housing Authority representative will inspect the premises at the time the resident vacates and will furnish a statement of any charges to be made provided the resident turns in the proper notice under State law. The resident's security deposit can be used to offset against any Avon Park Housing Authority damages to the unit.

### ***17.1 MOVE-IN INSPECTIONS***

The Avon Park Housing Authority and an adult member of the family will inspect the unit prior to signing the lease. Both parties will sign a written statement of the condition of the unit. A copy of the signed inspection will be given to the family and the original will be placed in the tenant file.

### ***17.2 ANNUAL INSPECTIONS***

The Avon Park Housing Authority will inspect each public housing unit annually to ensure that each unit meets the Avon Park Housing Authority's housing standards. Work orders will be submitted and completed to correct any deficiencies.

### ***17.3 PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS***

This is generally conducted along with the annual inspection. This inspection is intended to keep items in good repair. It checks weatherization; checks the condition of the smoke detectors, water heaters, furnaces, automatic thermostats and water temperatures; checks for leaks; and provides an opportunity to change furnace filters and provide other minor servicing that extends the life of the unit and its equipment.

#### ***17.4 SPECIAL INSPECTIONS***

A special inspection may be scheduled to enable HUD or others to inspect a sample of the housing stock maintained by the Avon Park Housing Authority.

#### ***17.5 HOUSEKEEPING INSPECTIONS***

Generally, at the time of annual reexamination, or at other times as necessary, the Avon Park Housing Authority will conduct a housekeeping inspection to ensure the family is maintaining the unit in a safe and sanitary condition.

#### ***17.6 NOTICE OF INSPECTION***

For inspections defined as annual inspections, preventative maintenance inspections, special inspections, and housekeeping inspections, the Avon Park Housing Authority will give the tenant at least two (2) days written notice.

#### ***17.7 EMERGENCY INSPECTIONS***

If any employee and/or agent of the Avon Park Housing Authority has reason to believe that an emergency exists within the housing unit, the unit can be entered without notice. The person(s) that enters the unit will leave a written notice to the resident that indicates the date and time the unit was entered and the reason why it was necessary to enter the unit.

#### ***17.8 PRE-MOVE-OUT INSPECTIONS***

When a tenant gives notice that they intend to move, the Avon Park Housing Authority will offer to schedule a pre-move-out inspection with the family. The inspection allows the Avon Park Housing Authority to help the family identify any problems that, if left uncorrected, could lead to vacate charges. This inspection is a courtesy to the family and has been found to be helpful both in reducing costs to the family and in enabling the Avon Park Housing Authority to ready units more quickly for the future occupants.

#### ***17.9 MOVE-OUT INSPECTIONS***

The Avon Park Housing Authority conducts the move-out inspection after the tenant vacates to assess the condition of the unit and determine responsibility for any needed repairs. When possible, the tenant is notified of the inspection and is encouraged to be present. This inspection becomes the basis for any claims that may be assessed against the security deposit.

## **PET POLICY**

### **18.1 EXCLUSIONS**

This policy does not apply to animals that are used to assist persons with disabilities. Assistive animals are allowed in all public housing facilities with no restrictions other than those imposed on all tenants to maintain their units and associated facilities in a decent, safe, and sanitary manner and to refrain from disturbing their neighbors.

This policy does not apply to any Avon Park Housing Authority property for the elderly/disabled. A separate Pet policy addresses this situation.

### **18.2 APPROVAL**

Residents must have the prior approval of the Housing Authority before moving a pet into their unit. Residents must request approval on the Authorization for Pet Ownership Form that must be fully completed before the Housing Authority will approve the request. Residents must give the Housing Authority a picture of any cat or dog so that it can be identified if it is running loose. The Housing Authority may request to see a pet before final approval. A licensed veterinarian may be required to verify in writing the expected adult size of a dog.

### **18.3 TYPES AND NUMBER OF PETS**

The Avon Park Housing Authority will allow only common household pets. This means only domesticated animals such as a dog, cat, bird, rodent (including a rabbit), fish in aquariums or a turtle will be allowed in a unit. The type of pet is also limited by the City of Avon Park Code of Ordinance relating to animals kept as pets within the City.

Common household pets do not include reptiles (except turtles).

Per apartment unit, tenants shall be permitted to keep only one (1) dog which when fully matured, shall not exceed 25 pounds in weight or 18 inches in height), two (2) cats, two (2) birds in cages (cages not to exceed 10 cubic feet), one(1) rodent, or fish in an aquarium (tank size not to exceed 30 gallons).

Dogs and cats must be spayed or neutered and cats must be declawed (front feet) with a Veterinarian report supplied verifying the operation. No pets shall be kept or raised for commercial purposes.

Any animal deemed to be potentially harmful to the health or safety of others, including attack or fight trained dogs, will not be allowed.

#### **18.4      *INOCULATIONS***

7.            All pets must be registered with the Housing Authority prior to being brought on the premises. Pets must have all City and County Licenses and records of vaccinations and
8.            inoculations. These must be renewed annually and a copy provided for the resident's file.
- 9.

#### **18.5      *PET DEPOSIT***

A pet deposit of \$200 is required at the time of registering a dog, cat, fish in an aquarium larger than 10 gallons, caged birds and any pet requiring an indoor cage or filtration system. This amount shall be periodically revised by the Housing Authority if necessary, but shall not exceed \$300. The Pet Deposit must be paid prior to a pet being brought into the unit. A non-refundable pet fee of \$50.00 shall be payable annually. Cost of damage done by a pet to an apartment in excess of the pet deposit shall be borne by the resident. Any balance of deposit shall be refunded to the resident within thirty (30) days of move-out.

#### **18.6      *FINANCIAL OBLIGATION/EMERGENCY CARE OF ANIMALS***

Any resident who owns or keeps a pet in their dwelling unit will be required to pay for any damages caused by the pet. Also, any pet-related insect infestation in the pet owner's unit will be the financial responsibility of the pet owner and the Avon Park Housing Authority reserves the right to exterminate the unit and charge the resident.

Residents must maintain their pet responsibly and in accordance with applicable State and local public health, animal control, animal anti-cruelty laws and regulations, and with the policies established by the Avon Park Housing Authority.

Pet Owners must supply to the office an Authorization for Pet Ownership, with the names of at least two people who will be willing to assume immediate responsibility for the pet in the case of an emergency. In cases of emergency where the Housing Authority, despite its best efforts, is unable to reach one of the designated persons, pet owners agree to allow the Housing Authority to have the pet removed by City Animal Control or other public or quasi-public authority to a veterinarian of the Housing Authority's choice. All fees and costs shall be borne by the Pet Owner.

In such cases of emergency, the pet owner, their agent estate or family must within five (5) days, make arrangements with holder of said pet as to its disposition and shall be responsible for all

obligations, financial or other, for actions taken on behalf of the Pet Owner for the well being of the pet.

Any resident who owns or keeps a pet in their dwelling unit shall be responsible for any damage caused by the Pet. This includes any public area or other Housing Authority owned space and grounds.

All apartments having pets that attract fleas must be sprayed on a routine basis at the expense of the Pet Owner.

## **18.7      DESIGNATION OF PET AREAS**

Residents shall keep their pet inside their apartment at all times except as necessary to take the pet out. When outside their apartment, residents shall keep their pet on a short lease (dog or cat) or in an appropriate container. Dogs or cats will not be permitted to roam unrestrained on the property or may not be tied or chained outside or in common areas. The pet shall be accompanied by and under control of the resident at all times. Barking will not be tolerated as it is considered to be a nuisance to other residents.

Residents must clean up after their pets in their apartment. Residents must properly dispose of waste. Proper disposal of cat litter (secured and bagged) must be done on a frequent basis. Odors arising from cat litter will not be tolerated. Birds must be properly caged and the cage shielded to prevent litter accumulation and/or damage to the floors. Aquariums must not leak and must be cleaned regularly to prevent foul water and/or odors.

Pet owners shall be responsible for immediate clean up after exercising their dog anywhere on the property. In addition, the City Ordinance includes prompt removal and disposal of any waste on public property, which includes the property across the street from Lakeside Park on Lake Tulane.

## **18.8      *PET VIOLATION NOTICE/ NUISANCE OR THREAT TO HEALTH OR SAFETY***

The pet and its living quarters must be maintained in a manner to prevent odors and any other unsanitary conditions in the owner's unit and surrounding areas.

Repeated substantiated complaints by neighbors or Avon Park Housing Authority personnel regarding pets disturbing the peace of neighbors through noise, odor, animal waste, or other nuisance will result in the owner having to remove the pet or move him/herself.

Pets who make noise continuously and/or incessantly for a period of 10 minutes or intermittently for a half hour or more to the disturbance of any person at any time of day or night shall be considered a nuisance.

Management will send a 7-day pet violation notice to the pet owner for the following conditions:

- A. If a pet becomes annoying, bothersome, or in any way a nuisance to other residents or to the operations of the development
- B. If a pet becomes a safety, welfare, or health hazard to the pet owner, other residents, management, or a contractor or Law Enforcement Officer.

#### **18.9 VISITING PETS**

- 7.
- 8. Visiting pets and pet sitting are strictly prohibited.
- 9.

#### **18.10 REMOVAL OF PETS**

- 7.
- 8. The Avon Park Housing Authority, or an appropriate community authority, shall require the removal of any pet from a project if the pet's conduct or condition is determined to be a nuisance or threat to the health or safety of other occupants of the property or of other persons in the community where the property is located.
- 9.
- 10. In the event of illness or death of the pet owner, or in the case of an emergency which would prevent the pet owner from properly caring for the pet, the Avon Park Housing Authority has permission to call the emergency caretaker designated by the resident or the Animal Control Officer to take the pet and care for it until family or friends would claim the pet and assume responsibility for it. Any expenses incurred will be the responsibility of the Pet Owner.

11.

#### **18.11 MISCELLANEOUS RULES**

- 7. Pets may not be left unattended in a dwelling unit for over 8 hours. If the pet is left unattended and no arrangements have been made for its care, the Housing Authority will have the right to enter the premises and arrange for the uncared for pet to be boarded at a local animal care facility at the total expense of the resident.
- 8.
- 9. Pet bedding shall not be washed in any common laundry facilities.
- 10.
- 11. All dogs must wear a tag bearing the resident's name and phone number and the date of the latest rabies inoculation.
- 12.
- 13. Pets cannot be kept, bred or used for any commercial purpose.
- 14.

15. Residents owning a cat shall maintain waterproof litter boxes for cat waste. Refuse from litter boxes shall not accumulate or become unsightly or unsanitary. Litter shall be disposed of in an appropriate manner.
- 16.
17. A pet owner shall physically control or confine his/her pet during the times when Housing Authority employees, agents of the Housing Authority or others must enter the pet owner's apartment to conduct business, provide services, enforce lease terms etc.
- 18.
19. A pet owner who violated any other conditions of this policy may be required to remove his/her pet from the development within 7 business days of written notice from the Housing Authority. The pet owner may also be subject to termination of his/her dwelling lease.
- 20.
21. The Housing Authority's grievance procedure shall be applicable to all individual grievances or disputes arising out of violations or alleged violations of this policy.
- 22.

## **18.12 DEFINITIONS**

- 7.
8. **Pet** – A pet is defined as a domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, fish, that is traditionally kept in the home for pleasure, rather than for commercial purposes. Dangerous animals and reptiles (except turtles) are excluded from definition and are not permitted.
- 9.
10. **Pet Owner** – A person who has obtained legal possession and prior approval to own a pet (per above definition).

## **19.0 REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS**

When a resident owes the Avon Park Housing Authority back charges and is unable to pay the balance by the due date, the resident may request that the Avon Park Housing Authority allow them to enter into a Repayment Agreement. The Avon Park Housing Authority has the sole discretion of whether to accept such an agreement. All Repayment Agreements must assure that the full payment is made within a period not to exceed twelve (12) months. All Repayment Agreements must be in writing and signed by both parties. Failure to comply with the Repayment Agreement terms may subject the Resident to eviction procedures.

Repayment Agreements are allowed for those tenants whose rental amount is the \$50 minimum rent and who have had their rent abated for a temporary period.

## **20.0 TERMINATION**



## **20.1    *TERMINATION BY TENANT***

The tenant may terminate the lease at any time upon submitting a 30-day written notice. If the tenant vacates prior to the end of the thirty (30) days, they will be responsible for rent through the end of the notice period or until the unit is re-rented, whichever occurs first.

## **20.2    *TERMINATION BY THE HOUSING AUTHORITY***

After October 1, 2000, the Avon Park Housing Authority will not renew the lease of any family that is not in compliance with the community service requirement or an approved Agreement to Cure. If they do not voluntarily leave the property, eviction proceedings will begin.

The Avon Park Housing Authority will terminate the lease for serious or repeated violations of material lease terms. Such violations include but are not limited to the following:

- A.     Nonpayment of rent or other charges;
- B.     A history of late rental payments;
- C.     Failure to provide timely and accurate information regarding family composition, income circumstances, or other information related to eligibility or rent;
- D.     Failure to allow inspection of the unit;
- E.     Failure to maintain the unit in a safe and sanitary manner;
- F.     Assignment or subletting of the premises;
- G.     Use of the premises for purposes other than as a dwelling unit (other than for housing authority approved resident businesses);
- H.     Destruction of property;
- I.     Acts of destruction, defacement, or removal of any part of the premises or failure to cause guests to refrain from such acts;
- J.     Any criminal activity on the property or drug-related criminal activity on or off the premises. This includes but is not limited to the manufacture of methamphetamine on the premises of the Avon Park Housing Authority;

- K. Non-compliance with Non-Citizen Rule requirements;
- L. Permitting persons not on the lease to reside in the unit more than fourteen (14) days each year without the prior written approval of the Housing Authority; and
- M. Other good cause.

The Avon Park Housing Authority will take immediate action to evict any household that includes an individual who is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a State sex offender registration program.

### **20.3 ABANDONMENT**

The Avon Park Housing Authority will consider a unit to be abandoned when a resident has both fallen behind in rent **AND** has clearly indicated by words or actions an intention not to continue living in the unit. In the absence of actual knowledge of abandonment, it shall be presumed that the Resident has abandoned the dwelling if the Resident is absent from the dwelling for a period of fifteen days (15), the rent is not current, and the Resident has not notified the Housing Authority in writing in advance of an intended absence.

In accordance with chapter 83, Section 67(3), Florida Statutes, as may be amended, if the resident abandons or surrenders the dwelling to the Avon Park Housing Authority and fails to remove all personal property from the dwelling and from other areas of Avon Park Housing Authority's property, the Housing Authority shall not be liable or responsible for the storage or disposition of any personal property of Residents, members of Resident's household, nor others claiming ownership of personal property through the Resident.

When a unit has been abandoned, an Avon Park Housing Authority representative may enter the unit and remove any abandoned property.

### **20.4 RETURN OF SECURITY DEPOSIT**

After a family moves out, the Avon Park Housing Authority will return the security deposit within 14 days or give the family a written statement of why all or part of the security deposit is being kept. The rental unit must be restored to the same conditions as when the family moved in, except for normal wear and tear. Deposits will not be used to cover normal wear and tear or damage that existed when the family moved in.

The Avon Park Housing Authority will be considered in compliance with the above if the required payment, statement, or both, are deposited in the U.S. mail with first class postage paid within 14 days.

## GLOSSARY

**50058 Form:** The HUD form that housing authorities are required to complete for each assisted household in public housing to record information used in the certification and re-certification process and, at the option of the housing authority, for interim reexaminations.

**1937 Housing Act:** The United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) (24 CFR 5.100)

**Adjusted Annual Income:** The amount of household income, after deductions for specified allowances, on which tenant rent is based. (24 CFR 5.611)

**Adult:** A household member who is 18 years or older or who is the head of the household, or spouse, or co-head.

**Allowances:** Amounts deducted from the household's annual income in determining adjusted annual income (the income amount used in the rent calculation). Allowances are given for elderly families, dependents, medical expenses for elderly families, disability expenses, and child care expenses for children under 13 years of age. Other allowance can be given at the discretion of the housing authority.

**Annual Contributions Contract (ACC):** The written contract between HUD and a housing authority under which HUD agrees to provide funding for a program under the 1937 Act, and the housing authority agrees to comply with HUD requirements for the program. (24 CFR 5.403)

**Annual Income:** All amounts, monetary or not, that:

- A. Go to (or on behalf of) the family head or spouse (even if temporarily absent) or to any other family member; or
- B. Are anticipated to be received from a source outside the family during the 12-month period following admission or annual reexamination effective date; and
- C. Are not specifically excluded from annual income.

Annual Income also includes amounts derived (during the 12-month period) from assets to which any member of the family has access. (1937 Housing Act; 24 CFR 5.609)

**Applicant (applicant family):** A person or family that has applied for admission to a program but is not yet a participant in the program. (24 CFR 5.403)

**As-Paid States:** States where the welfare agency adjusts the shelter and utility component of the welfare grant in accordance with actual housing costs. Currently, the four as-paid States are New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, and Vermont.

**Assets:** The value of equity in savings, checking, IRA and Keogh accounts, real property, stocks, bonds, and other forms of capital investment. The value of necessary items of personal property such as furniture and automobiles are not counted as assets. (Also see "net family assets.")

**Asset Income:** Income received from assets held by family members. If assets total more than \$5,000, income from the assets is "imputed" and the greater of actual asset income and imputed asset income is counted in annual income. (See "imputed asset income" below.)

**Assistance applicant:** A family or individual that seeks admission to the public housing program.

**Ceiling Rent:** Maximum rent allowed for some units in public housing projects.

**Certification:** The examination of a household's income, expenses, and family composition to determine the family's eligibility for program participation and to calculate the family's share of rent.

**Child:** For purposes of citizenship regulations, a member of the family other than the family head or spouse who is under 18 years of age. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

**Child Care Expenses:** Amounts anticipated to be paid by the family for the care of children under 13 years of age during the period for which annual income is computed, but only where such care is necessary to enable a family member to actively seek employment, be gainfully employed, or to further his or her education and only to the extent such amounts are not reimbursed. The amount deducted shall reflect reasonable charges for childcare. In the case of childcare necessary to permit employment, the amount deducted shall not exceed the amount of employment income that is included in annual income. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

**Citizen:** A citizen or national of the United States. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

**Community service:** The performance of voluntary work or duties that are a public benefit and that serve to improve the quality of life, enhance resident self-sufficiency, or increase resident self-responsibility in the community. Community service is not employment and may not include political activities.

**Consent Form:** Any consent form approved by HUD to be signed by assistance applicants and participants for the purpose of obtaining income information from employers and SWICAs, return information from the Social Security Administration, and return information for unearned income from

the Internal Revenue Service. The consent forms may authorize the collection of other information from assistance applicants or participant to determine eligibility or level of benefits. (24 CFR 5.214)

**Covered Families:** Families who receive welfare assistance or other public assistance benefits ("welfare benefits") from a State or other public agency ("welfare agency") under a program for which Federal, State, or local law requires that a member of the family must participate in an economic self-sufficiency program as a condition for such assistance.

**Decent, Safe, and Sanitary:** Housing is decent, safe, and sanitary if it satisfies the applicable housing quality standards.

**Department:** The Department of Housing and Urban Development. (24 CFR 5.100)

**Dependent:** A member of the family (except foster children and foster adults), other than the family head or spouse, who is under 18 years of age or is a person with a disability or is a full-time student. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

**Dependent Allowance:** An amount, equal to \$480 multiplied by the number of dependents, that is deducted from the household's annual income in determining adjusted annual income.

**Disability Assistance Expenses:** Reasonable expenses that are anticipated, during the period for which annual income is computed, for attendant care and auxiliary apparatus for a disabled family member and that are necessary to enable a family member (including the disabled member) to be employed, provided that the expenses are neither paid to a member of the family nor reimbursed by an outside source. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

**Disability Assistance Expense Allowance:** In determining adjusted annual income, the amount of disability assistance expenses deducted from annual income for families with a disabled household member.

**Disabled Family:** A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person with disabilities; two or more persons with disabilities living together; or one or more persons with disabilities living with one or more live-in aides. (24 CFR 5.403(b)) (Also see "person with disabilities.")

**Disabled Person:** See "person with disabilities."

**Displaced Family:** A family in which each member, or whose sole member, is a person displaced by governmental action (such as urban renewal), or a person whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to Federal disaster relief laws. (24 CFR 5.403(b))

**Displaced Person:** A person displaced by governmental action or a person whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to Federal disaster relief laws. *[1937 Act]*

**Drug-Related Criminal Activity:** Drug trafficking or the illegal use, or possession for personal use, of a controlled substance as defined in Section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

**Economic self-sufficiency program:** Any program designed to encourage, assist, train or facilitate the economic independence of HUD-assisted families or to provide work for such families. These programs include programs for job training, employment counseling, work placement, basic skills training, education, English proficiency, workfare, financial or household management, apprenticeship, and any program necessary to ready a participant for work (including a substance abuse or mental health treatment program), or other work activities.

**Elderly Family:** A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 62 years of age; two or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living together; or one or more persons who are at least 62 years of age living with one or more live-in aides. (24 CFR 5.403)

**Elderly Family Allowance:** For elderly families, an allowance of \$400 is deducted from the household's annual income in determining adjusted annual income.

**Elderly Person:** A person who is at least 62 years of age. (1937 Housing Act)

**Extremely low-income families:** Those families whose incomes do not exceed 30% of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 30% of the median income for the area if HUD finds that such variations are necessary because of unusually high or low family incomes.

**Fair Housing Act:** Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.). (24 CFR 5.100)

**Family** includes but is not limited to:

- A. A family with or without children;
- B. An elderly family;
- C. A near-elderly family;
- D. A disabled family;

- E. A displaced family;
- F. The remaining member of a tenant family; and
- G. A single person who is not an elderly or displaced person, a person with disabilities, or the remaining member of a tenant family. (24 CFR 5.403)

**Family Members:** All members of the household other than live-in aides, foster children, and foster adults. All family members permanently reside in the unit, though they may be temporarily absent. All family members are listed on the lease.

**Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS Program):** The program established by a housing authority to promote self-sufficiency among participating families, including the coordination of supportive services. (24 CFR 984.103(b))

**Flat Rent:** A rent amount the family may choose to pay in lieu of having their rent determined under the income method. The flat rent is established by the housing authority set at the lesser of the market value for the unit or the cost to operate the unit. Families selecting the flat rent option have their income evaluated once every three years, rather than annually.

**Full-Time Student:** A person who is attending school or vocational training on a full-time basis.

**Head of Household:** The adult member of the family who is the head of the household for purposes of determining income eligibility and rent. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

**Household Members:** All members of the household including members of the family, live-in aides, foster children, and foster adults. All household members are listed on the lease, and no one other than household members are listed on the lease.

**Housing Assistance Plan:** A housing plan that is submitted by a unit of general local government and approved by HUD as being acceptable under the standards of 24 CFR 570.

**Imputed Income:** For households with net family assets of more than \$5,000, the amount calculated by multiplying net family assets by a HUD-specified percentage. If imputed income is more than actual income from assets, the imputed amount is used as income from assets in determining annual income.

**Imputed welfare income:** The amount of annual income not actually received by a family, as a result of a specified welfare benefit reduction, that is nonetheless included in the family's annual income for purposes of determining rent.



**In-Kind Payments:** Contributions other than cash made to the family or to a family member in exchange for services provided or for the general support of the family (e.g., groceries provided on a weekly basis, baby sitting provided on a regular basis).

**Income Method:** A means of calculating a family's rent based on 10% of their monthly income, 30% of their adjusted monthly income, the welfare rent, or the minimum rent. Under the income method, rents may be capped by a ceiling rent. Under this method, the family's income is evaluated at least annually.

**Interim (examination):** A reexamination of a family income, expenses, and household composition conducted between the regular annual recertifications when a change in a household's circumstances warrants such a reexamination.

**Live-In Aide:** A person who resides with one or more elderly persons, near-elderly persons, or persons with disabilities and who:

- A. Is determined to be essential to the care and well being of the persons;
- B. Is not obligated for the support of the persons; and
- C. Would not be living in the unit except to provide the necessary supportive services. (24 CFR 5.403(b))

**Low-Income Families:** Those families whose incomes do not exceed 80% of the median income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 80% of the median for the area on the basis of HUD's findings that such variations are necessary because of unusually high or low family incomes.

**Medical Expenses:** Medical expenses (of all family members of an elderly or disabled family), including medical insurance premiums that are anticipated during the period for which annual income is computed and that are not covered by insurance. (24 CFR 5.603(d)). These expenses include, but are not limited to, prescription and non-prescription drugs, costs for doctors, dentists, therapists, medical facilities, care for a service animals, transportation for medical purposes.

**Mixed Family:** A family whose members include those with citizenship or eligible immigration status and those without citizenship or eligible immigration status. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

**Mixed population development:** A public housing development, or portion of a development, that was reserved for elderly and disabled families at its inception (and has retained that character). If the development was not so reserved at its inception, the PHA has obtained HUD approval to give preference in tenant selection for all units in the development (or portion of development) to elderly families and disabled families. These developments were formerly known as elderly projects.

**Monthly Adjusted Income:** One twelfth of adjusted income. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

**Monthly Income:** One twelfth of annual income. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

**National:** A person who owes permanent allegiance to the United States, for example, as a result of birth in a United States territory or possession. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

**Near-Elderly Family:** A family whose head, spouse, or sole member is a person who is at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62; two or more persons, who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62, living together; or one or more persons who are at least 50 years of age but below the age of 62 living with one or more live-in aides. (24 CFR 5.403(b))

**Net Family Assets:**

- A. Net cash value after deducting reasonable costs that would be incurred in disposing of real property, savings, stocks, bonds, and other forms of capital investment, excluding interests in Indian trust land and excluding equity accounts in HUD homeownership programs. The value of necessary items of personal property such as furniture and automobiles shall be excluded.
- B. In cases where a trust fund has been established and the trust is not revocable by, or under the control of, any member of the family or household, the value of the trust fund will not be considered an asset so long as the fund continues to be held in trust. Any income distributed from the trust fund shall be counted when determining annual income.
- C. In determining net family assets, housing authorities or owners, as applicable, shall include the value of any business or family assets disposed of by an applicant or tenant for less than fair market value (including a disposition in trust, but not in a foreclosure or bankruptcy sale) during the two years preceding the date of application for the program or reexamination, as applicable, in excess of the consideration received therefore. In the case of a disposition as part of a separation or divorce settlement, the disposition will not be considered to be for less than fair market value if the applicant or tenant receives important consideration not measurable in dollar terms. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

**Non-Citizen:** A person who is neither a citizen nor national of the United States. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

**Occupancy Standards:** The standards that a housing authority establishes for determining the appropriate number of bedrooms needed to house families of different sizes or composition.

**Participant:** A family or individual that is assisted by the public housing program.

**Person with Disabilities:** A person who:

- A. Has a disability as defined in 42 U.S.C. 423
- B. Is determined, pursuant to HUD regulations, to have a physical, mental, or emotional impairment that:
  - 1. Is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration;
  - 2. Substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently; and
  - 3. Is of such a nature that the ability to live independently could be improved by more suitable housing conditions.
- C. Has a developmental disability as defined in 42 U.S.C. 6001.

This definition does not exclude persons who have the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any conditions arising from the etiologic agent for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

For purposes of qualifying for low-income housing, it does not include a person whose disability is based solely on any drug or alcohol dependence.

**Previously unemployed:** This includes a person who has earned, in the 12 months previous to employment, no more than would be received for 10 hours of work per week for 50 weeks at the established minimum wage.

**Processing Entity:** The person or entity that is responsible for making eligibility and related determinations and an income reexamination. In the Section 8 and public housing programs, the processing entity is the responsibility entity.

**Proration of Assistance:** The reduction in a family's housing assistance payment to reflect the proportion of family members in a mixed family who are eligible for assistance. (24 CFR5.520)

**Public Housing:** Housing assisted under the 1937 Act, other than under Section 8. Public housing includes dwelling units in a mixed-finance project that are assisted by a PHA with capital or operating funds.

**Public Housing Agency (PHA):** Any State, county, municipality, or other governmental entity or public body (or agency or instrumentality thereof) that is authorized to engage in or assist in the development or operation of low-income housing under the 1937 Housing Act. (24 CFR 5.100)

**Recertification:** The annual reexamination of a family's income, expenses, and composition to determine the family's rent.

**Remaining Member of a Tenant Family:** A member of the family listed on the lease who continues to live in the public housing dwelling after all other family members have left. (Handbook 7565.1 REV-2, 3-5b.)

**Responsible Entity:**

- A. For the public housing program, the Section 8 tenant-based assistance program (24 CFR 982), and the Section 8 project-based certificate or voucher program (24 CFR 983), and the Section 8 moderate rehabilitation program (24 CFR 882), responsible entity means the PHA administering the program under an ACC with HUD;
- B. For all other Section 8 programs, responsible entity means the Section 8 project owner.

**Self-Declaration:** A type of verification statement by the tenant as to the amount and source of income, expenses, or family composition. Self-declaration is acceptable verification only when third-party verification or documentation cannot be obtained.

**Shelter Allowance:** That portion of a welfare benefit (e.g., TANF) that the welfare agency designates to be used for rent and utilities.

**Single Person:** Someone living alone or intending to live alone who does not qualify as an elderly family, a person with disabilities, a displaced person, or the remaining member of a tenant family. (Public Housing: Handbook 7465.1 REV-2, 3-5)

**Specified Welfare Benefit Reduction:**

- A. A reduction of welfare benefits by the welfare agency, in whole or in part, for a family member, as determined by the welfare agency, because of fraud by a family member in connection with the welfare program; or because of welfare agency sanction against a family member for noncompliance with a welfare agency requirement to participate in an economic self-sufficiency program.
- B. "Specified welfare benefit reduction" does not include a reduction or termination of welfare benefits by the welfare agency:

1. at the expiration of a lifetime or other time limit on the payment of welfare benefits;
2. because a family member is not able to obtain employment, even though the family member has complied with welfare agency economic self-sufficiency or work activities requirements; or
3. because a family member has not complied with other welfare agency requirements.

**State Wage Information Collection Agency (SWICA):** The State agency receiving quarterly wage reports from employers in the State or an alternative system that has been determined by the Secretary of Labor to be as effective and timely in providing employment-related income and eligibility information. (24 CFR 5.214)

**Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF):** The program that replaced the Assistance to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) that provides financial assistance to needy families who meet program eligibility criteria. Benefits are limited to a specified time period.

**Tenant:** The person or family renting or occupying an assisted dwelling unit. (24 CFR 5.504(b))

**Tenant Rent:** The amount payable monthly by the family as rent to the housing authority. Where all utilities (except telephone) and other essential housing services are supplied by the housing authority or owner, tenant rent equals total tenant payment. Where some or all utilities (except telephone) and other essential housing services are supplied by the housing authority and the cost thereof is not included in the amount paid as rent, tenant rent equals total tenant payment less the utility allowance. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

**Third-Party (verification):** Written or oral confirmation of a family's income, expenses, or household composition provided by a source outside the household.

**Total Tenant Payment (TTP):**

- A. Total tenant payment for families whose initial lease is effective on or after August 1, 1982:
  1. Total tenant payment is the amount calculated under Section 3(a)(1) of the 1937 Act which is the higher of:
    - a. 30% of the family's monthly-adjusted income;

- b. 10% of the family's monthly income; or
- c. If the family is receiving payments for welfare assistance from a public agency and a part of such payments, adjusted in accordance with the family's actual housing costs, is specifically designated by such agency to meet the family's housing costs, the portion of such payments which is so designated.

If the family's welfare assistance is ratably reduced from the standard of need by applying a percentage, the amount calculated under section 3(a)(1) shall be the amount resulting from one application of the percentage.

- 2. Total tenant payment for families residing in public housing does not include charges for excess utility consumption or other miscellaneous charges.
- B. Total tenant payment for families residing in public housing whose initial lease was effective before August 1, 1982: Paragraphs (b) and (c) of 24 CFR 913.107, as it existed immediately before November 18, 1996), will continue to govern the total tenant payment of families, under a public housing program, whose initial lease was effective before August 1, 1982.

**Utility Allowance:** If the cost of utilities (except telephone) and other housing services for an assisted unit is not included in the tenant rent but is the responsibility of the family occupying the unit, an amount equal to the estimate made by a housing authority of the monthly cost of a reasonable consumption of such utilities and other services for the unit by an energy-conservative household of modest circumstances consistent with the requirements of a safe, sanitary, and healthful living environment. (24 CFR 5.603)

**Utility Reimbursement:** The amount, if any, by which the utility allowance for the unit, if applicable, exceeds the total tenant payment for the family occupying the unit. (24 CFR 5.603)

**Very Low-Income Families:** Families whose incomes do not exceed 50% of the median family income for the area, as determined by HUD with adjustments for smaller and larger families, except that HUD may establish income ceilings higher or lower than 50% of the median for the area if HUD finds that such variations are necessary because of unusually high or low family incomes.

**Welfare Assistance:** Welfare or other payments to families or individuals, based on need, that are made under programs funded by Federal, State or local governments. (24 CFR 5.603(d))

**Welfare Rent:** In "as-paid" welfare programs, the amount of the welfare benefit designated for shelter and utilities.

## ACRONYMS

ACC	Annual Contributions Contract
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
FSS	Family Self Sufficiency (program)
HCDA	Housing and Community Development Act
HQS	Housing Quality Standards
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
INS	(U.S.) Immigration and Naturalization Service
NAHA	(Cranston-Gonzalez) National Affordable Housing Act
NOFA	Notice of Funding Availability
OMB	(U.S.) Office of Management and Budget
PHA	Public Housing Agency
QHWRA	Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998
SSA	Social Security Administration
TTP	Total Tenant Payment



## **ATTACHMENT E: Comments of Resident Advisory Board (RAB) and Explanation of PHA**

In the 2001 Avon Park Housing Authority Annual Plan the major changes from the 2000 Annual Plan were the additions of two new policies, as required by the QHWRA and HUD regulations. The policies are the Community Services Policy and a Pet Policy for the family development. Both were extensively discussed at the RAB meetings in August, September and October. The first comments were taken to the September Board of Commissioners meeting, discussed by the Board, returned to the RAB, with some modifications to the original policy, and the revised policies were then approved by the Board of Commissioners at the October 19<sup>th</sup> Board of Commissioners Meeting. The Community Services policy goes into effect immediately, at the annual reexaminations of eligible tenants, and the Pet Policy for the Lakeside Park property, January 1, 2001.

Major points discussed: types of pets allowed, individual tenant responsibilities, numbers of pets allowed, the pet deposit, keeping separate the pet policy for the families and the original pet policy for the elderly/persons with disabilities properties. The Board of Commissioners accepted the recommendations and they were incorporated into the policies.

: On the Community Services policy the major concern came from the elderly property and the regulations and policy assured the elderly and disabled residents the policy would not apply to them.

The Capital Fund and changes to the 5-Year Capital Fund Program were examined by the RAB. The changes were presented along with the revision to the 1998 CIAP grant for completion and closeout, the 1999 CFP and the 2000 program work items. The first consideration was the revision to the 1998 grant, with the revised budget presented to the Board of Commissioners at the November Board meeting. It was explained that, although HUD had sent the notice for the 2000 allocation in July, and the Housing Authority had completed all required paperwork months ago, the funds have not been released as of the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the RAB.

The RAB requested that the following priorities be changed: DeLaney Heights - Additional Parking be moved to 2002, and delay exterior painting to 2004. Lakeside Park – do the 700 ft. of fencing in 2001, taking it out of the Capital Fund Annual Plan and doing it out of existing funding. These changes were approved by the Board of Commissioners as part of adoption of the Annual Plan documents for 2001.

Additional Capital Fund items were discussed, for possible inclusion at the next revision, depending upon the available funding and the formula for 2002. These items were: consider a replacement floor covering for the terrazzo floors at Lakeside Park, with many having permanent 30-year old stains and it is difficult to get a shiny finish on the old terrazzo. Residents agreed with the interior painting work including replacing the vinyl cove base with wood molding. One tenant commented that the upgrading of the light fixtures at DeLaney Heights was not necessary, that lamps could be used. Because of concern on the available lighting the item is being kept in the budget. There was also a request to consider removing the shuffleboard court from the back of the DeLaney Heights Community Center. At this time this was noted but the budgets were not revised. It may be able to accomplished using local prison labor.

November 2000

## **ATTACHMENT F: Progress in Meeting the 5-Year Plan Mission and Goals**

### **A. Mission**

The Mission of the Avon Park Housing Authority has not changed in the past year.

### **B. Goals**

1. Board Development: This is an ongoing goal with no modification at this time.
2. Resident Involvement and Inclusion: The Resident Advisory Board was established. The focus has been to more actively involve residents, inform residents of changes in HUD and Housing Authority procedures. Several active projects resulted and 2 residents attended the HUD Resident Leadership Training in Kansas City, one from each property. The RAB is a standard agenda item at each Board of Commissioners meeting and excellent dialogue has been established between the Board and the RAB.
3. Community Watch Programs were established at each property. With a Police Department personnel shortage and reassignment of the Officer leading these programs there has been a break in the meetings. At the last RAB meeting the Acting Police Chief met with the RAB and the Community Watch programs, at least at DeLaney Heights where there is resident participation, will restart in the near future.
4. Meeting the needs of residents. The time taken to process the HUD requirements for the Resident Satisfaction Survey/Customer Satisfaction Survey, has taken the available staff time for the past year. No further process on conducting a separate family needs assessment has been made. It is hoped that this coming Customer Satisfaction Survey results will be more detailed and broken down between the 2 properties so that the results can be used for this assessment.
5. Strategic Plan:
  - a. No progress has been made in establishing a 501 C (3) organization, largely because of the extreme number of changes demanded by HUD of the local HA during the past year, and the multiple, and ever changing, electronic transmitting programs. The constant changes in the PHAS, REAC systems and a multitude of other extra demands upon the small PHA, has been a direct impediment to developing programs to increase the housing and economic self-sufficiency opportunities for the population we serve.
  - b. Highlands County Housing Initiative was formed through Habitat for Humanity and is identifying the number of below standard properties in the local area, and county as a whole. The Board of Commissioners is actively represented on this group. This information can be used in an assessment of the need for additional housing. The 2000 census results are not available at this time to add information for this study.
  - c. There is no consolidated planning process for determining the needs for additional affordable housing for Avon Park and area. With the release of the 2000 census data there will be a base for starting the process.
  - d. No meeting has been held with the neighborhoods surrounding the two public housing properties. Past efforts to include these neighborhoods in activities ranging from Community Block Watches, to tutoring classes and the Central Florida Health Center weekly clinic, has resulted in no neighborhood participation. Again, the time taken responding to HUD has left no time to expand the role of the public housing authority into the surrounding neighborhood this past year. The newly formed Lake Tulane Lake Association will be approached to aid in the communications with the neighborhood.